

THE
NATURAL HISTORY
OF
BIRDS;

ILLUSTRATED WITH UPWARDS OF ONE HUNDRED
COPPER-PLATES.

IN THREE VOLUMES.

VOL. III.

CONTAINING THE SIXTH AND LAST PART.

[Price of the Three Volumes plain, 12s. sewed.]

ILLUSTRATED WITH DRAWINGS OF ONE HUNDRED
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IN THREE VOLUMES

VOLUME

CONTAINING THE FIRST AND SECOND PARTS

[There is also a Volume of the whole]

THE
NATURAL HISTORY
OF
BIRDS;

CONTAINING
A VARIETY OF FACTS
SELECTED FROM SEVERAL WRITERS,

AND INTENDED FOR THE
AMUSEMENT AND INSTRUCTION
OF
CHILDREN.

WITH COPPER PLATES.

PART VI.
CONTAINING THE SIXTH ORDER.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR J. JOHNSON, NO. 72, ST. PAUL'S CHURCH-
YARD. MDCCXCI.

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BIRD

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PART VI.

CONTAINING THE EIGHTH ORDER

LONDON:

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WALKER, M.D.

THE
NATURAL HISTORY
OF
BIRDS.

ORDER 6th. PASSERES.

The beak is conic, and sharp at the point.

The nostrils are oval, wide, and naked.

THIS Order may be separated into two divisions.

First, the Columba, or Columbine, which includes Pigeons.

Secondly, the Passerine, which includes all the other Genera that are placed under the Order of the Passeres.

Strictly speaking the Genus, or rather the Division Columba, forms an order of itself, which has been called the Columbine; for as is justly observed in a note in Linnæus, Pigeons cannot properly be classed either with the Gallinæ, or

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the Passeres, because they pair, they bill, they sit alternately, they lay fewer eggs, they feed their young from their own beaks with what they have swallowed, and they build their nests on high.

However as Linnæus, whose arrangement is followed, has placed them with the Passeres, they will be considered here as belonging to the first division of that order.

First Division of P A S S E R E S.

GENUS 65. C O L U M B A.

The bill is soft, nearly strait, descending a little towards the point.

The nostrils are oblong, half covered with a soft tumid or swelling membrane.

The tongue is intire.

THE genus Columba, or Pigeon, admits of two subdivisions. The first with the feathers in the tail nearly of an equal length.

It has been observed that Pigeons are not our servants, like dogs and horses, nor are they our prisoners like some kinds of poultry, but that they rather seem to be our voluntary companions, and occasional guests, so long as they are provided with

ORDER 6th. Passeres.
Genus 66. Columba.



PIGEON.

B  L

with the conveniences they like.—Some prefer the dusty holes in decayed walls to the neatest boxes we can furnish them with. Some lay in the crevices of rocks, or hollows of trees, whilst others never abandon those places that are appointed for them.

All animals in a domestic state become variously marked, and from being better fed will be increased in size; these differences by attention may be rendered constant, and varieties without end may, by culture and attention, be procured from one species. This is instanced in white Turkeys, white Ducks, Ducks and Fowls that are crested, but in no birds does it prevail in a greater extent than amongst Pigeons, which, being very prolific, that is breeding very fast, would naturally become the most varied. Some perhaps have been selected on account of their superior size, and from these a larger race has been produced; others on account of particular marks have been matched together, and these marks have become permanent or lasting. Others again, on account of some of their feathers growing in a particular form, or taking a particular direction. Most of these, in the first instance, were only accidental varieties, the consequence of their becoming domestic.

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The effects of cultivation are seen more or less in every animal under our care. Canary birds are now bred with crests, some with yellow feathers, some mottled, and by combining these varieties other new varieties will probably take place.

An account then of every different race of Pigeons, is not so properly the natural history of the bird, as an account of the art and industry of man, applied to this particular object.

The Stock Dove is so called because it is the stock or stem from which probably most of the others sprang; for however numerous the species of Pigeons may appear, it is very possible that a few only exist in nature, and that the rest are varieties, the natural effect of domestication at first, and particular attention afterwards.

The Stock Dove, which is the Pigeon in its wild state, breeds but once or twice in the year; they migrate into England in great numbers from colder climates at the approach of winter, some indeed stay with us the whole year, breeding in woods, on trees, in the holes of trees that are decayed, or in the crevices of rocks, whence it has sometimes been called the Rock Pigeon, and the Wood Pigeon.

Whilst

Whilst the beech woods covered large tracts of land, they haunted them in myriads, their flocks extending in strings of a mile in length as they went out to feed.

Their plumage is generally of a bluish cast, the neck glossed with green, the back is white, and there is a black band on each wing, and at the end of the tail.

The first stage of domestication is the Dove-house Pigeon; this is the intermediate state between the wild and the tame Pigeon. The Dove-house Pigeons breed three times a year, if they are pleased with their situation. As they dislike interruption, a dove-house situated close to our habitations seldom succeeds so well as one at the distance of four or five hundred yards, and exposed to the morning sun.

They frequently desert their houses when their situation is low, and fly to take possession of others whose exposure is more pleasant; but if they should continue in those which have not the benefit of the morning sun, they would not increase so fast.

A Pigeon-house in a fine situation has produced four hundred pairs in a season, whilst another, less favourably placed, has produced only one hundred pairs.

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When Pigeon-houses are at some distance, it is necessary to guard them from birds of prey, such as Hawks and Owls, and even from Magpies.

The tame Pigeon is in a still higher state of domestication, its colours and varieties are infinite.

These Pigeons will breed almost every month, provided there be not too many in the same Dove-house; but then each pair must have three or four boxes, and so contrived that they may not see one another whilst they sit; if the number be too great, they will be frequently fighting and breaking the eggs.

They begin to lay at nine months old, and sit from seventeen to twenty days; and as they breed so frequently, it has been calculated that in four years one thousand eight hundred might be produced from one pair.

They lay each time two eggs, scarcely making any nest; the cock and hen sit by turns, one calling to the other by a gentle cooing, whenever it wishes to leave the nest in search of food. The cock watches near his mate attentively, whilst she is sitting, and takes her place for two or three hours at a time, sometimes twice in a day and night.

Their

Their fondness for their eggs is so great, that they will suffer severe hardships, rather than forsake them. A hen Pigeon, whose box was unfortunately placed so near a window during some very cold weather, that her feet were frozen and fell off, still continued sitting, until she had hatched her young.

The young Pigeons are generally a cock and a hen; their parents feed them by first swallowing the grain, and after it is a little softened in their first stomach, they throw it back through their beaks into the beaks of their young.

After Pigeons are once paired, they are very constant: nothing can be more pleasing and assiduous than the attention of the mate to his partner, he seems to solicit her regard by the most interesting manners, he walks frequently round her, displaying himself in a variety of attitudes, and calling to her in a note the most tender and plaintive. Of all birds they appear the most happy and affectionate, cooing to, and billing one another in a manner that seems to discover a tenderness, and even a delicacy of attachment.

The Greeks had improved the breed of Pigeons, and kept them in Dove-houses. Pliny, among the Romans, speaks of a large breed of Pigeons in Campania, and of people who, being very cu-

rious in Pigeons, bought them at extravagant prices; he says that they built turrets for them at the tops of their houses, and kept their pedigree.

It was probably from the Romans that we might first have learnt to keep them in Dove-houses. In Egypt they are very frequent, and are considered by the husbandman as a valuable part of his estate.

Pigeons are very fond of salt, and have frequently been the means of pointing out salt springs. In order to attach them to any particular Dove-house, a composition is sometimes made of salt, caraway-seeds, loam, and rubbish; and this is occasionally used to intice other Pigeons.

They are very delicate food.

Amongst the many varieties the following are some of the most remarkable.

The Roman, or Spanish Pigeon, it has a cere of a white mealy appearance, and is double the size of a common Pigeon.

The Rough-footed Pigeon, whose legs are covered with feather to the toes.

The Powter Pigeon, he can inflate or blow up his breast to a monstrous size, as large as the rest of his body. Linnæus says, that this variety, or species is found in Arabia Felix. The purest breed

breed of these have the ten quill feathers white as far as the middle of the wing.

The varieties of this Pigeon are very numerous. As their breast is almost always swelled out with wind, they are obliged to draw back their heads; this prevents their seeing before them, and they are often surprised by birds of prey.

The Jacobine. The feathers round the back part of the head are raised, and turn in a contrary direction; the beak is very short. Of these there are many varieties; in general they breed pretty well, and they are beautiful birds: the Ruff and Capuchin Pigeons seem nearly related to the Jacobine.

The Laced Pigeon is white, the legs red, the feathers are loose in their webs, and curled or frizzled.—The Frillback is nearly related to it, the tip of each feather being bent upwards.

The Turbit Pigeon.—The feathers of the breast on each side turn back, the beak is short, and the head smooth; this is a very beautiful Pigeon, but does not easily pair with others, and is frequently taken by birds of prey.—The Owl Pigeon is like this, except that it is only of one colour, and the Turbit is of two colours.

The Fantail Pigeon.—The tail is raised, very wide, and furnished with many feathers. This Pigeon can raise and spread its tail like the Turkey Cock. Some of them have thirty feathers in their tails, whilst many other Pigeons have but twelve. When their tails are spread, they are not only raised but thrown forwards towards the head, and their heads are drawn back towards the tail; all this time there is a quivering in the neck, as though it were convulsed by the seeming exertion. These Pigeons do not fly so well as others, their large tails appear to be an incumbrance, and often occasions them to be blown out of their right direction by the wind. Some of these are quite white, and some white except the head and tail, which are black.

The Tumbler is rather smaller than the common Pigeon, and frequently turns over and over as it flies, until it almost reaches the ground, as though it were seized with a giddiness. It rises very high, its flight is rapid, and all its movements quick and irregular. It is a small Pigeon, and has sometimes been called the Pantomime Pigeon from its tumbling.

The Almond Tumblers are the most valued: eighty guineas have been given for one of them.

There

There is a Pigeon nearly allied to the Tumbler, which, as it turns round, strikes the air with that force with its wings, as sometimes to break several of its quill feathers.

The Helmet Pigeon has the head, the tail, and the first quill feathers of the same colour; the rest of the feathers are of a different colour.

The Persian Pigeon has a large warty excrescence above the beak, and a red circle extending round the eyes; it is a large Pigeon, its legs are short, and it seldom goes far from the Dove-house.

The Carrier has a remarkably large white carunculated or warty cere, and a naked circle round the eyes.

These Pigeons have often been employed to carry letters to a considerable distance in a short time.

In the Pigeon-houses of Grand Cairo, in Egypt, they separate some of the males from the females, and send them to those places from which they wish to receive news; the letter is tied under the wing of the Pigeon, who has been previously well fed, lest he should stay by the way; he flies strait to the Pigeon-house where his mate
is

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is kept, and in one day passes over a space that a man would be six days in travelling.

At Aleppo they have Pigeons which will bring letters in less than six days from Alexandria, although it be four hundred miles distant. It is said that a Pigeon went from Babylon to Aleppo, which is thirty days journey, in forty-eight hours.

At the siege of Modena, Pliny mentions, that Hirtius without, and Brutus within the walls, kept up a constant correspondence by Pigeons; and by that means baffled every attempt of Antony, (who was besieging the place,) to intercept their letters.

In England they are often let loose at Tyburn to inform the distant friends of the criminal of his disgraceful death.

They do not always use on these occasions the Carrier, which is a valuable Pigeon, as many others will answer the purpose.

The Horseman is a breed between the Carrier and Powder, and often employed to convey letters.

A Dragoon Pigeon, which is bred by a Carrier and Horseman, flew from St. Edmund's Bury to Bishopsgate-street, which is seventy-two miles, in two hours and a half.

The

The Smiter Pigeon claps his wings together as he flies, so as to be heard at some distance.

The Turner Pigeon has a tuft of feathers hanging down backwards from the top of the head, like the mane of a horse.

The Spot Pigeon has a spot on the forehead of the same colour as its tail; the rest of its feathers are white.

The Norway Pigeon has a crested head, and long feathers on its legs; it is as large as a fowl, and white as snow.

The Barbary Pigeon has a short bill, a broad circle of mealy and warty red flesh round its eyes; the plumage is bluish, and it has two blackish spots on each wing.

There are probably many other varieties already known to Pigeon-fanciers, and many new ones, perhaps, forming every day.

The Partridge Pigeon has a naked red skin round the eyes, the body is reddish above, yellow beneath.

It has a white mark on each side under the eye, on each side the throat, and at the setting on of each wing.

It

It inhabits Jamaica, feeds on myrtle-berries, builds in trees that have low boughs, and lines its nest with hair and cotton: at first sight it seems much like a Partridge.

The White Crowned Pigeon.—The crown of the head, and the circles round its eyes are white, the feathers of the body bluish, the wing and tail feathers are dusky, the beak red at the base.

The White Crowned Pigeons inhabit North America, the Bahama islands, and Jamaica; the inhabitants take great numbers, they feed on the seeds of the mangrove and wild coffee, and are bitter or sweet, according to the food they live upon.

The White-winged Pigeon has a naked blue skin round the eyes, the tail feathers are ash-colour with white tips, the two middle tail feathers dusky. It inhabits Asia, and flirts its tail like a Water Wagtail.

The Triangular Spotted Pigeon has a naked red skin round each eye, triangular white spots on the wings, tail feathers black at the tips; the bill is dusky. It inhabits the southern parts of Africa, and is common about the Cape of Good Hope.

The

The Great Crowned Pigeon has a black circle round each eye, an upright crest, the body bluish, the shoulders ferrugineous or iron colour.

Six of the covert feathers of the wings are black, but iron-coloured at the points. The crest on its head is large, upright, compressed, and composed of distinct feathers; the bill and legs are dusky, and the bird is nearly the size of a Peacock.

It inhabits the Molucca islands and New Guinea, and has been brought alive to England. In the East Indies they are sometimes kept tame in their poultry-yards.

The male approaches his partner with the same gestures as the common Pigeon, its note is cooing and plaintive, but loud. The crew of Mr. Bougainville, (who made a voyage round the world,) were much alarmed at their noise, imagining before they discovered what it proceeded from, that it was the cries of human beings. They build their nests on trees.

The Ring Dove.—The tail is ash-coloured above, and blackish at the tips; the greater quill feathers are dusky, and all except the outermost have the exterior edges whitish; on each side of the neck is a white crescent; the legs are covered
with

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with feathers, almost to the toes. They inhabit Europe and Asia, fly in flocks, and are very hurtful to corn-fields.

The Ring Doves are a large species of the Pigeon; they come into England and France in the spring, and go away in autumn. Their young are seen in great plenty in August. Some continue in France all winter; they perch upon trees, and make a large, but a slight and flat nest among the branches. They lay two, and sometimes three eggs, and breed twice a year, in April and at Midsummer. Mr. Buffon says, that they sit but fourteen days, and that in fourteen days after the young are hatched, they are capable of taking care of themselves. They coo louder than the common Pigeon in the breeding season when the weather is fine, but if it be rainy they are quite silent.

They feed upon berries, acorns, wild strawberries, and grain of all kind, and frequently do great mischief among the corn.

They are very delicate food, and being much sought after, are rather scarce. In some parts of England they are called Queists, and their note is most pleasingly wild and plaintive.

The White-bellied Pigeon.—The tail is blue, terminated with a band of white. It is found in
Jamaica,

Jamaica, and is probably a bird of passage; it feeds on berries, perches on trees, and makes a mournful noise, at the same time that it is loud and disagreeable;

The Turtle.—The tail feathers are white at the points, the back is greyish, the breast is a pale reddish colour; on each side the neck is a spot of black feathers, with white tips.

Linnæus considers this bird as an inhabitant of India; it is not uncommon in England and in France. Turtles are very shy birds, retiring to breed in thick gloomy woods, generally amongst oak trees; during that season they are found in Buckinghamshire, they afterwards migrate into Gloucestershire, Shropshire, and into the west of England; but in autumn leave the kingdom. Indeed they arrive later, and depart sooner, than any other species of Pigeon. In the summer they frequent the pea-fields in Kent in flocks, as soon as the peas begin to ripen, and destroy great numbers. The female lays two eggs, and is supposed to breed but once in the season.

The Collared Turtle.—The body is of a light clay-colour; the hind part of the neck is marked with a collar of black feathers. Linnæus says that
this

this bird is found in India ; it is however a bird of passage in most European countries.

The Collared Turtles migrate in flocks ; they continue in France four or five months, and breed there, building their nests in the most silent and gloomy woods. Though naturally they are wilder than Pigeons, yet, like them, they may be tamed, and brought up in Dove-houses. They may be paired with the common Pigeon, and a mixed breed will be produced, but it is not known whether these will produce others.

In some countries not frequented by men, Turtles are so tame, that they may be beat down by hundreds with a stick. Though their manners be gentle, caressing, and affectionate, they are not so constant to each other as the common Pigeon. They eat and drink like the rest of the Pigeons, not raising their heads until they have swallowed all the water they want at that time. Their cooing is sweetly melancholy and plaintive.

The Ground Turtle.—The tail and quill feathers are dusky, the body purplish, the beak and feet yellowish. This species is about the size of a Lark, and inhabits the warmer parts of America ; feeds on the ground like Partridges ; when disturbed they take a short flight, alighting again soon

soon upon the ground; they eat grain of various kinds, and are frequently taken in traps, being esteemed delicate food.

The Passerine Turtle is still less, its plumage is dusky, it has five spots on each wing, like polished steel; the outer tail feathers are white at the tips, the breast is a whitish red, and the wings reddish beneath. It inhabits the island of St. Domingo, and may be a variety of the Ground Turtle.

The Malacca Turtle is but a very little bigger than a House Sparrow; the bill is black, tinged with yellow at the tip and base; sides of the neck white, crossed with many lines of black; outer tail feathers brown two thirds of their length, from thence to the end white; legs a yellow orange-colour.

It inhabits Malacca, is a beautiful species, and delicate food. Some of them have been carried to the Isle of France, and increase there very fast.

The Pompadour Pigeon has a bluish bill, its cheeks and chin are of a pale yellow; the back, breast and stomach, a pale green; the wing coverts a beautiful rich red, the quills black edged with yellow; the tail of a light green and long. It inhabits Ceylon, and is always seen flying or perched

perched on trees; its food is berries. The natives catch these Pigeons with bird-lime, the Europeans shoot them. Their flesh is esteemed a delicacy.

The Purple Crowned Pigeon.—Of this several varieties are found in the islands in the South Seas or Pacific Ocean. In Otaheite the crown of this Pigeon is a faint purple; at Ulietea deeper; at Tonga Taboo of a very deep vivid purple, surrounded by yellow. They feed on the fruit of the banana, and are easily tamed.

Mr. Bougainville mentions a beautiful green Turtle, and Pigeons with a green and gold plumage, perhaps of this species.

The White Nutmeg Pigeon.—The plumage is wholly white, except the quills, and one third of the tail near the end, which are black; the legs are light grey.

It inhabits New Guinea, feeds on nutmegs, the outer skin of them is perhaps the only part that serves for nourishment, as the nut itself passes through the bird uninjured for the purposes of vegetation; and by this means, the nutmeg-trees are propagated, and spread through all the islands which they frequent.

There are other species, or varieties, that are called Nutmeg Pigeons for the same reason. Nor is this the only spice that is propagated in this manner. The cinnamon groves are diffused in Ceylon by the same means, by Pigeons called Cinnamon Eaters; and there are other plants the berries of which they eat, voiding the stones on trees and on the ground, where they grow.

The Hackled Pigeon's bill and irides are crimson, the feathers of the head, neck, and breast, are long, narrow, and pointed, and produce a very singular effect, resembling a polished substance; it has a naked skin round each eye, of a deep red colour; the back, wings, and stomach, are of a deep blue; the tail a deep crimson, and the legs black.

They are found in the Isle of France, and their flesh is supposed to be poisonous.

The Second Division, or PIGEONS, the feathers in whose tails are of unequal length.

The Passenger Pigeon.—The tail is wedge-shaped, there is a naked crimson circle round each eye, and the breast of a reddish brown.

These Pigeons inhabit North America; their migrations depend very much on the season, for
it

it is the want of food that compels them to fly from one province to another. If the winter be mild, few are seen in the southern parts of that continent. They feed on acorns, the berries of various trees, and several kinds of mast. Wherever they stop they devour every thing of that kind, for they fly in myriads.

When they have eaten all the masts, or berries, that are fallen upon the ground, they fly strait upwards amongst the branches of the trees, in columns, by turns, and they beat down the acorns and mast with their wings. In Canada they frequently do great mischief in devouring the corn, before they begin their flight into more southern countries. They abound in the country near Hudson's Bay, where they breed in the woods; in some parts, it is said, they are in such numbers, that they join nest to nest, and that these nests reach from tree to tree for several miles in length. When their food is exhausted in those cold climates, they collect in immense numbers, and it is asserted that they fly by millions in a flock, intercepting the light of the sun, so as to occasion a degree of darkness in those places over which they pass. These flocks are said to be two miles long, and a quarter of a mile in breadth.—According to some writers, they are four or five miles

miles in length, succeeding one another almost continually for three days together.

They alight in such numbers upon trees, as frequently to break off by their weight limbs of the largest oaks, and the ground under the trees where they have roosted, is covered to a considerable depth with their manure.

In North America the Indians watch their roosting places, go there in the night with long poles, and kill them by thousands. Formerly in almost every little town in the interior parts of Carolina, the inhabitants would provide a hundred gallons of the fat or oil of these Pigeons, which they eat with maize instead of butter.

A gentleman thought of a method of taking these Pigeons in great numbers, and with little trouble. He placed a vessel with burning sulphur under the trees, where they roosted; the fumes suffocated them, and brought them down in showers.

In Philadelphia the inhabitants often shoot them from the tops of their houses.

It is very singular that some days, when almost all the inhabitants of a town go out to kill Pigeons, and destroy great numbers, that not one hen Pigeon shall be found amongst them; and on other days not one cock.

The Carolina Pigeon.—The tail is wedge-shaped, and very long; it has a blue circle round each eye; the feathers on the under part of the body are a reddish brown.

It inhabits Carolina all the year, and feeds on berries and seeds. It is a great devourer of peas, for which reason, and because its flesh is delicate food, great numbers are taken in traps.

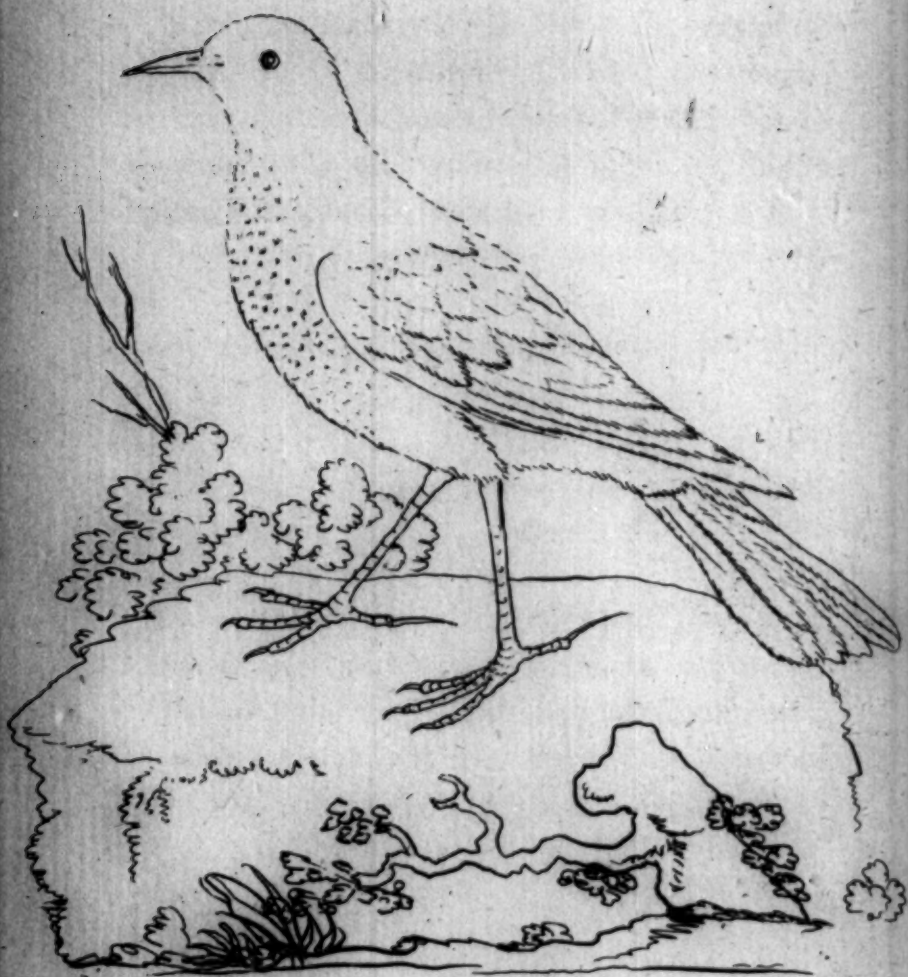
There are some other species of Pigeons of this as well as of the former division, but nothing very interesting is known respecting their habits; they are only distinguished by natural historians by the difference of their plumage, &c.

ORDER



BOL

ORDER 6th Passeres
Genus 67 Alauda.



NEW ZEALAND LARK.

Published June 27 87 by Joseph St. Pauls Church Yard London.

ORDER 6th. PASSERES.

Second Division, the PASSERINE.

The beak is conic, and sharp at the point.

The legs formed for hopping, and slender, the toes are divided.

GENUS 67. ALAUDA.

THE LARK.

The beak is cylindrical, and slender; strait except towards the point, where it is slightly bending; the mandibles equal, gaping outwards at the base.

The tongue is divided at the end.

The hind claw nearly strait, and longer than the toe.

THE SKY-LARK.

The two outer tail feathers are white on the outer webs all their length, the inner webs of the intermediate tail feathers, are of a rust colour.

SKY-LARKS inhabit all parts of Europe; and of Siberia, as far as Kamtschatka; removing from cold into milder climates, at the approach of winter. In the neighbourhood of Dunstable, four thousand dozens have been taken between the 14th of September, and the 25th of

February, for the London market. The Larks in the country near Leipzig, are as famous in Germany, as those of Dunstable are in England, and such numbers have been brought to Leipzig fair, that the excise or tax, that has been paid upon them, has amounted to 6000 dollars.

Nor is it only in Europe, and Asia, that Skylarks are found. They likewise inhabit Africa; but hitherto we have not heard that any of this species have been seen in America. In the summer, they prefer high, and dry situations; in the winter they descend into the plains, or level fields; it is then that they are fattest, for they are almost continually feeding; but in summer they fly, and sing so much, and are so much engaged with the care of their young, that they are always lean.

The male bird is crested, at least it has the power of raising some of the feathers which grow upon its head; and it can learn the song of almost any other bird, even after its own is in some measure formed; it may be taught tunes by a bird organ, and performs them better than either a Canary-bird, or Bullfinch: it is so strongly disposed to imitate, that in order to have its own, or any acquired song unmixed, it ought to hear no other.

In

In a state of liberty the Sky-lark begins his song the first fine weather in the spring, generally early in the morning, and repeats it in the afternoon: he rises high in the air, sometimes remaining as it were suspended, then rising again by jerks, he warbles the most musical, and animated notes; singing still louder as he rises higher, so that his song may be heard when he has soared out of sight; and lowering it as he descends, until it dies quite away.

He never sings on the ground, though he lives mostly there, for the Sky-lark cannot perch upon a tree, the form of his nail behind, which is nearly strait, and very long, preventing him from clasping the branch.

Though Sky-larks generally rise in the air by jerks, yet they frequently descend obliquely; and sometimes, (especially when they are in fear of a bird of prey,) they fall instantly like a stone.

Like other birds that mount very high, Larks have been carried away to sea by the wind, and accordingly we read many instances of Larks, and other birds, alighting on the masts of ships, at a great distance from land. By extreme cold weather, they are forced to the neighbourhood of springs that do not freeze, in large flocks; in-

deed in winter they are always collected together in numbers.

In the cold weather of January 1776, in the neighbourhood of Pont de Beauvoisin in France, they appeared in such numbers, that a man with a stick killed enough to load two mules; they were very lean, and seemed almost starved for want of food.

The female makes her nest on the ground, and lines it with grass, and small dry roots, and fibres: she conceals it with so much care, that it is found with great difficulty. She sits only eleven days, and in fifteen more, the young ones leave the nest, and follow her.

As the nest is made, and the young are hatched, and capable of providing for themselves, in so short a time, it is probable that they breed more than once in a season. In warm climates they are supposed to hatch three times; in England perhaps twice; in Sweden, which is colder, only once.

The mother does not often warm her young ones under her wings, they lie scattered at a little distance from one another, and she often flutters above them.

Buffon mentions an instance of a young lark which he had in confinement, that conceived all the affection of a parent for some nestlings that were brought to her, and though she was
but

but a little older than these young ones, yet she nursed them with a mother's attention, and anxiety.

After a separation, she flew to them the moment she was at liberty; and though the opportunities of escaping were frequent, she was withheld by her attachment. Her anxiety was so great, that at length she died of fatigue; the little ones did not long outlive their affectionate nurse, whose care had been so useful to them.

Young Larks feed on worms, ant's eggs, caterpillars, and grasshoppers; for which reasons they are much esteemed in the countries infested by these insects.

They are taken in many different ways; when the weather is gloomy, they are caught in a net which is stretched on two poles eighteen feet long, and carried by two men. Sometimes they are caught by a long string, part of which is covered with bird-lime, and let drop upon the bird by two men, or boys, who walk along the field at as great a distance from each other, as the length of the line will permit, each holding one end in his hand.

Sometimes they are enticed by call birds of their own species, (for we cannot deceive them by imitating their notes,) or by a looking glass fixed in wood, which by means of a string is made

to turn swiftly round; perhaps the light it reflects may raise their curiosity.

When they are caught in order to be confined, as singing birds, it is sometimes necessary at first to tie their wings, until they are a little used to the cage; or to stretch a piece of silk just beneath the upper part of the cage, because they are apt to fly against it violently, and to hurt themselves.

Their cages should be very large, and perches are unnecessary, but a turf should always be placed on a stand, and the bottom strewed with sand, that they may dust themselves to get rid of troublesome insects.

When they are confined only to hemp-feed, their plumage becomes almost black.

At first the young are fed with poppy-feed, and bread moistened, afterwards with sheep's heart, or veal minced small, with egg boiled hard; this may be mixed with oats, grits, flax-feed, hemp-feed, and several other feeds.

In time they may be tamed so as to stand, and eat on the table, or out of the hand; the form of the hind claw prevents their perching on the finger.

THE TIT-LARK.

The two outside tail feathers are white on the outer webs, and there is a white line above each eye.

The tongue is divided at the tip into several threads.

It frequents the meadows in most parts of Europe, and feeds chiefly on worms, beetles, insects, and several kinds of grain; whilst it is eating it, it flirts its tail like a Water-wagtail.

This is one of the smallest of the Lark kind; the female builds her nest in low and marshy situations, lines it with horse-hair, and conceals it very artfully. She lays five or six eggs, and whilst the female sits, the cock perches himself upon a tree at a little distance; for Tit-larks can perch, the hind claw being bent, and therefore suited for that purpose: but he generally chuses a branch that is not very small, and depends most upon the claws of the toes before.

The cuckow frequently lays its egg in the Tit-lark's nest, the little cuckow has been found in it newly hatched, the old Tit-lark covering and feeding it, whilst the young Larks, though not quite feathered, were sitting on the outside of the nest. The Tit-lark is a timorous bird, and rises at the slightest noise; its song is plaintive, and

interesting, though perhaps not so varied as the Sky-lark's; it has something of the melancholy of the Nightingale's, but is not so continued, and the female sings in this, and perhaps in other species of the Lark, tho' there is reason to suppose that the song of the male-bird is superior. Tit-larks sing as they sit on the ground, whilst perched upon trees, or sporting in the air, especially as they are descending.

THE WOOD-LARK.

Its head is surrounded with a pale band.

The first wing feather is shorter than the second.

The tail-feathers dusky, about half of the two outer are marked obliquely with white.

There is a white wedge-shaped spot on the second, third, and fourth.

It inhabits Europe, but not so far north as Sweden; and is found in Siberia, as far as Kamtschatka.

Wood-larks fly in flocks; they do not, like Sky-larks frequent open situations, but generally build their nests by the side of a wood, though they seldom take shelter there. The nest is made of dry grass, and lined with soft hair, the outside is moss; it is placed on the ground, the female lays five eggs; she builds very early, and breeds twice

in

in the year, the first brood are sometimes ready to fly before the beginning of April.

The Wood-lark, like the Tit-lark, can perch upon trees, but for the same reason chuses the larger branches, and like the Sky-lark it sings, as it soars in the air.

It is a very tender bird, and preserved with great difficulty. Indeed it seldom lives a year in a cage, or survives moulting. Its song is very melodious, and plaintive; much like the Nightingale's, and like the Nightingale it sometimes sings in the night. Some have thought that its song has a resemblance to the Black-bird's.

THE MEADOW-LARK.

The tail feathers dusky, the lower half white, except in the two in the middle; the throat and breast yellowish; over each eye a stripe of yellowish white.

It is not found farther north than Sweden.

Meadow-larks frequent brakes, and stubble lands, and after harvest they are found in great numbers amongst oat stubbles.

The male is rather larger than the female; in plumage they nearly resemble each other, but the males are so quarrelsome that

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they may easily be known when they are brought together, for they immediately begin to fight, with every appearance of jealousy and hatred.

In the spring the male perches upon trees, either to call or to discover the female; sometimes too he rises in the air and sings, but he soon alights again on the ground and joins the female.

The female, when any thing approaches her nest, discovers it by her fears, and her cries; in this she differs from almost every other species of the Lark, for in general they sit still and motionless.

The Meadow-larks are tamed with difficulty; their wings must be tied at first, or a piece of silk should be stretched below the top of their cage, to prevent their hurting themselves against the wires. For some time at first they ought to be kept in the dark, and the light should be admitted by degrees.

THE GRASSHOPPER-LARK.

The tail feathers are dusky, the outer ones white half way upwards, the next have a white wedge-shaped spot at their points. There are two lines of white upon the wings.

The

The Grasshopper-lark inhabits England, Germany, and Sweden: It is the smallest species, and in some parts of England is called the Pipit, from its cry. In the winter its note is thought to resemble the chirping of the Grasshopper, on which account it is likewise called the Grasshopper-lark. It makes this noise as it flies, or whilst it is perched upon a branch, for it can perch, and even upon small branches, its hind claw is better suited for this purpose than that of any other Lark, because it is not so long in proportion, and is less strait.

In the spring the male bird sings with a great deal of action, fluttering his wings, and raising his feathers; his song, though simple, is melodious, and the notes are distinctly pronounced. In the summer he chirps the whole night.

This species appears in England about the middle of September, many are taken about the neighbourhood of London: they flutter a little way rather than fly. They are very artful birds, skulking in the middle, and thickest part of hedges, and running along for a hundred yards together.

The female makes her nest in a very retired situation, but on the ground, so that the young

are

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are often devoured by snakes. She lays five eggs.

THE CRESTED-LARK.

The tail feathers are black, the two outer are white on the outer webs. The head is crested.

This Lark is found in most countries in Europe, but not so frequently as the Sky-lark; it is mostly seen on the banks of rivers, by the sides of ditches, or running along the tops of furrows. In the winter it frequents the high roads to pick up any scattered grain.

It perches sometimes on walls and roofs of houses, the female builds her nest like the Sky-lark, but generally near the high road, and lays five eggs. She does not sit very constantly, indeed the eggs do not seem to require so great a degree of heat, or at least so continued a warmth as those of some other birds. The song of the male bird is very melodious, and even loud, but at the same time so little disturbing, that a sick person might bear it without much inconvenience in his chamber. For the sake of their melody they are often confined in a cage. Though naturally they are not very wild, yet they cannot bear a long confinement; for this reason

reason it is usual to release them at the end of June, after which they seldom sing. It is easy to catch others the next spring, or indeed their song may be enjoyed during the winter, by placing a young Canary bird near them, who will easily learn it.

Their singing is attended with a tremulous motion in their wings. They are the first to announce the return of spring. If the weather be clear, and serene, they sing early in the morning as if to welcome the rising sun.

In gloomy weather they seem melancholy, and are silent.

The Crested Larks are often destroyed by birds of prey.

THE CALANDRE-LARK.

The outer tail feathers are entirely white on the outer web, and about half way from the end of the inner; the second and third tail feathers are tipped with white.

On the breast is a black band almost in the form of a crescent.

They inhabit Italy, Sardinia, and the neighbourhood of Aleppo in Turkey in Asia; and the Deserts bordering on the Don, and the Wolga. They are likewise found in North Carolina.

The

The Calandre is one of the largest species of Larks, his beak is short, and strong, so that he can easily break many kinds of seeds. His song is louder than the Sky-lark's, but so melodious, that in Italy it is not unusual to say of a good singer that he sings like a Calandre. This bird too can easily acquire the notes of the Linnet, the Goldfinch, the Canary, and other birds, for it is an excellent imitator, and frequently mimicks the chirping of chickens, and the mewing of a cat. It is of so wild a disposition when first confined, that it is necessary either to tie the wings, or to strain a piece of silk across the upper part of the cage; when it is a little accustomed to confinement it sings almost continually.

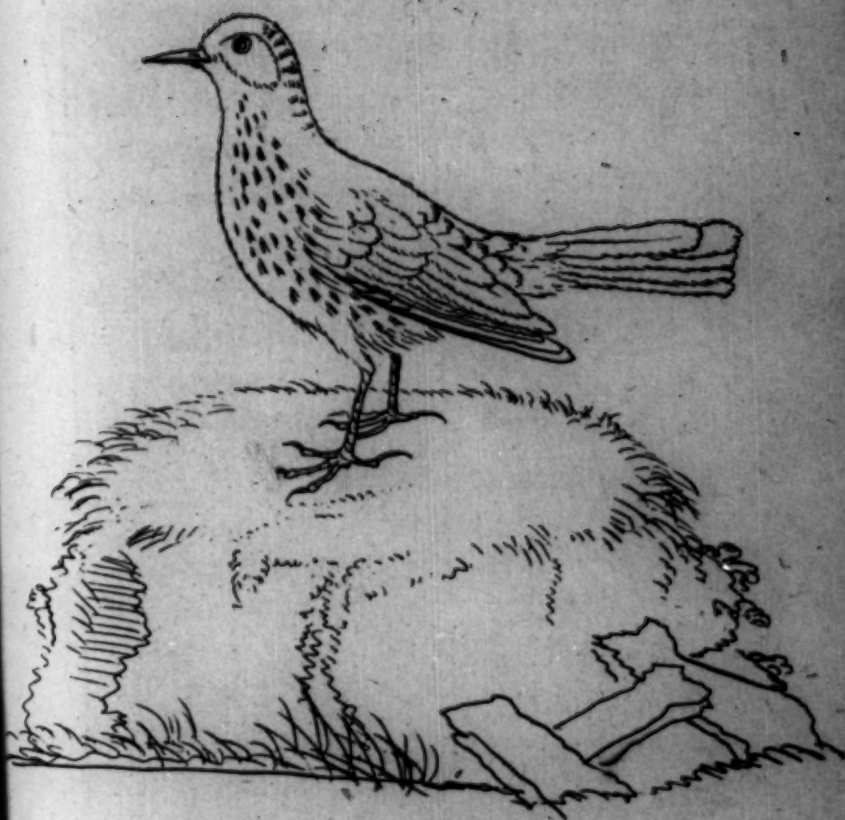
THE SHORE-LARK.

The tail feathers are white on the inner half, the throat is yellow, and it has a black band passing under each eye, a little way down the neck; on the lower part of the neck is a broad black band.

It inhabits North America, Germany, Russia, and Siberia. In winter Shore larks come in great flights to the southern provinces of North America, frequenting sand hills on the sea shore. They feed on grass seeds, and the buds of the

ORDER 6th.

Genus 67 *Alauda*.



RED LARK from PENNSYLVANIA. .

Published June 1787 by Ser. Johnson S. Pauls Church Yard London.

B  L

B  L

ORDER 6th Passeres.
Genus 68 Sturnus



STARE or STARLING.

Published June 1. 1797 by J. Johnson S. Pauls Church Yard London

the birch tree, they run into small holes, and keep close to the ground.

They are esteemed delicate food, and frequently taken in springes made of horse-hair, which are set in some place where the snow is removed, and chaff is strewed about.

Some say that it has little or no song, and others say that its song is delightful.

GENUS 68. STURNUS.

THE STARE.

The beak is slender, depressed, a little blunt, the upper mandible very strait.

The nostrils guarded above by a prominent rim.

The tongue hard and cloven.

THE STARLING.

Its beak is yellowish, the plumage black, glossed with changeable blue, purple, and copper colour; with white or pale yellow spots.

It inhabits both Europe, and Africa; for it is a bird of passage, migrating from one country to another, and is found from Sweden, to the Cape of Good Hope.

The Starling breeds in hollow trees, sometimes
seizing

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seizing the nest of the Wood Pecker, who in its turn also seizes upon the Starling's nest. Sometimes too it will use the old nest of a Thrush, for it is not nice in these respects, collecting only a few leaves, or other dry materials to lay its eggs upon; occasionally they breed under the eaves of houses, in towers, ruins, in cliffs or high rocks over the sea; the nest is frequently made of straw and small fibres of roots, and lined with leaves.

Starlings are gregarious birds.—In winter they assemble in flocks. They collect in immense numbers in the fens of Lincolnshire, and do great damage among the reeds, by roosting upon them in such multitudes, as to break them down by their weight; for reeds are used there for thatch, and are the harvest of that country; sometimes they are seen in company with Redwings, and Fieldfares; they are easily distinguished from other birds by their manner of flying, which is very irregular, and disorderly.

They feed principally on worms, and insects; they will sometimes eat grain, and some kinds of fruits, and they have been known to get into Pigeon-houses, to suck the Pigeon's eggs.

They are very docile, and disposed to imitate;
for

for this reason they are often confined in cages, and taught to speak.

Their flesh is very bitter.

Of this species there are several varieties, one that is wholly white, the bill reddish, and the legs flesh coloured.

Another variety that is white, spotted with blue.

A third is cream-coloured, with white spots:

There are several other species of the Stare, but nothing remarkable is known of their manners, except the

W A T E R O U Z E L,

Whose plumage is black with a white breast.

It inhabits Europe, frequenting watery places; in the winter it is generally seen near cataracts, or falls of water, and springs that do not freeze; though it is not web-footed, it descends in a wonderful manner through rapid whirlpools, to feed upon the onisci, and other insects, that are at the bottom; and walks about upon the ground under the water, in search of this kind of food; it devours insects, and small fish only, and does not feed on grain; it frequently wags its tail, and its nostrils are almost covered with a little rim.

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It breeds in holes in the banks, and lays five white eggs tinged with red; the nest is curiously made of hay, and fibres of roots, and lined with dead oak leaves, having an entrance of green moss.

GENUS 69. TURDUS.

THE THRUSH.

The beak in this Genus is straitish, the upper mandible a little bending towards the point, and slightly notched.

The nostrils are naked, in some species they are half covered above with a little membrane or skin.

The corners of the mouth are furnished with a few slender hairs.

The tongue is a little jagged at the end.

The outmost toe adheres as far as the first joint to the middle toe.

The first species is the MISSEL-THRUSH.

Its back is dusky, its neck and cheeks are white, or yellowish white, spotted with brown; the base of the lower mandible, and the gape, yellow, the other parts of the mandible dusky.

It inhabits Europe, in England it stays all the year, but in some parts it is a bird of passage.

The Missel birds feed on berries, of various kinds; the holly, ivy, hawthorn, and particularly the

the berries of the mistletoe; indeed it is a means of propagating that plant, for the seeds passing through the body, and being let fall on trees, grow there.

They build their nests in bushes, or low trees, or by the side of a tree, frequently the ash tree; it is made on the outside with twigs, then with moss, and leaves, and lined with fine withered grass. The hen lays four or five eggs, of a dingy flesh colour, marked with reddish spots.

The Mistle bird's song is very agreeable, though not so melodious as that of the common Thrush; they sing early in the spring, from the summit, or top of a very high tree, from which they may be heard to a great distance, varying their note continually; sometimes too they sing early in the year, when the weather is blowing, and stormy; on which account they are called storm cocks.

They are good eating. Some varieties of this bird have been found, one of a reddish cream colour, the stomach white with cream colour spots; another variety white, spotted with brown beneath.

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THE FIELDFARE is another Species.

The tail feathers are black, except the outer ones, which are whitish at their points on their inner margin. The head and extreme part of the body grey, or a dusky white.

Fieldfares are found all the year in Poland and in Sweden, in prodigious flocks; in England and France they are only birds of passage, making their appearance in winter, or the latter end of autumn, and returning in the spring. They appear constantly in the Orkney Islands, at the approach of winter, in their passage. Their food is berries; in Sweden they frequent those parts where the juniper grows, and there they build in high trees.

Their flesh is esteemed. The Romans kept these birds, and the Redwing, by thousands in their aviaries to fatten, esteeming them a delicacy.

THE REDWING, the 3d Species of this Genus.

The wings are rust coloured beneath, its eyebrows are whitish.

It visits England with the Fieldfare, but with us has only a piping note. In Sweden it warbles melodiously in the spring, perched on the top of a high tree, in Maple forests. It builds in some

low shrub or hedge, and the female lays six blueish green eggs, spotted with black.

Redwings, common Thrushes, and Fieldfares, abound so much, and are killed in such numbers for the markets in Polish Prussia, that a tax has been paid for 30,000 at Dantzic only, in one season.

THE THROSTLE.

The wing feathers are rust-coloured at the base, on the inside; the under part of its body is spotted, the spots are shaped like the heads of arrows, with their points upward.

This is one of our finest song birds, and sings the longest. It begins its melodious warbling early in the spring, and continues until the end of autumn. Perched upon some high tree, it amuses us in our walks with its delightful song.

With us the Thrush is not gregarious, and though it remain in England all the year, possibly it may go from one part to another, at the approach of Winter, or retire into the woods. In France Thrushes are migratory, appearing in Burgundy twice a year: first in April, and leaving it in May; and again at the vintage, when

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when they do a great deal of damage in the vineyards, by eating the ripe grapes; they disappear again at the approach of winter.

THE REDBREASTED THRUSH.

The upper parts of the body olive brown, the stomach is reddish, the eyelids are white, and it has a white spot on each side between the beak and the eyes: the tail is black, edged with olive brown.

This is a North American bird, and retires from the warmer into the more northern parts to breed. In some climates Red-breasted Thrushes build their nests, lay, and hatch their eggs, in fourteen days: in colder situations they require twenty-six days. The nest is composed of roots and moss, and the hen lays five eggs: both male and female share the care of making the nest, and feeding the young; whilst the female is sitting, the male frequently cheers her with his musical voice.

Though they migrate to colder climates in the spring, this does not appear to arise from their being unable to support the heat; because there has been an instance of a single bird of this species remaining all the summer in Virginia, feeding on the berries of a tree, which had been lately introduced into that country, and of which it seemed very fond.

Their food is chiefly worms and insects; they feed also upon the seeds of sassafras, or tupelo and pokeberries, and of these last they are so fond, that it is said their flesh, at the end of the year, is in consequence tinged of a purplish colour.

The song of these birds is very melodious in their wild state, but they will not bear confinement in a cage; yet they are not shy or distrustful, for they are frequently seen hopping on the ground close to houses.

THE MIMIC THRUSH,

s of a dusky ash-colour above, beneath of a light ash-colour; the quill feathers black, on their lower parts tip'd with white.

It inhabits Virginia, and Carolina, and indeed some parts of South America: it sings most melodiously as it flies from shrub to shrub, and imitates the cry of almost every animal it hears; the European Nightingale does not exceed its song, and like that it sings the greatest part of the night. It frequents moist woods, and builds both in bushes and trees; but it is so shy, that like the Redstart with us, it will forsake its nest if much observed, or if the eggs be touched; the young, when taken, are reared with great difficulty.

THE MOCKING-THRUSH.

Its back is dusky, its breast and two outmost tail feathers are white, and its eyebrows are white.

It is an inhabitant of America.

Suspended in the air, it enraptures those who hear it with its song; which no melody can rival.

Though its natural notes be inexpressibly sweet, its powers of imitation are such, that it can mimic the song of every bird it hears, and any other noise however discordant; the mewing of a cat, the chattering of a magpye, or the croaking of a frog; from the variety of its note, it has a name among the Mexicans which signifies 400 tongues. It begins generally with its own natural song, and introduces into it a variety of melody, which it has adopted from other birds.

In the warmer parts of America it is singing almost incessantly, day and night, from March, to August; and as though animated by its own inimitable song, it gradually raises itself on the place it is perched on, extending its neck, drawing it back, stooping, rising, fluttering its wings, and turning itself round with a variety of action.

The

The Mocking Thrush has great courage, and is not afraid of attacking birds much superior in size.

It is however very tender, and found in those parts of America which are to the north of Carolina, only in the summer season; in the more southern climates it continues the whole year, building its nest in June; the hen lays six eggs.

It often builds in fruit trees, and frequents the neighbourhood of houses; it is a familiar bird, often singing melodiously, perched on a chimney top; yet it will forsake its eggs on perceiving that its nest is discovered.

THE STONE THRUSH.

The head is blue, the tail rust colour, the body reddish, with small dusky spots; the two middle tail feathers are dusky, the rest are reddish, except at the very tips.

It is found on the mountains of Switzerland, of Austria, of Tyrol, and the Alps.

This bird receives its name from the places which it frequents, for it generally stands upon a stone; it appears to be very distrustful and suspicious, and seems careful to keep out of the reach

of a gun, for upon any person's approaching within gun shot, it immediately flies away, alighting again upon a stone, so that it can see all around.

The female builds her nest in the top of a cavern, or the hole of a rock, difficult of access, and lays three or four eggs.

The nest is artfully concealed, and when after great toil, and some danger, you have found it, the old birds defend it with great resolution, striking at the eyes of those who attempt to invade it.

The young ones must be taken before they can fly, for they are so artful, and so cautious, that they cannot be ensnared in any traps.

Though their natural food be worms, and insects, when brought up in a cage they will live upon the same food that is given to young Nightingales.

Their song is very melodious, and they easily learn the notes of other birds, and even tunes. They generally sing at day break, and at sun-set; and if a candle be brought to their cage in the night, they will begin their song. In the day time they often seem to be practising their notes in a lower key.

B  L

ORDER 6th.
Genus 69 *Turdus*.



ROSE COLOUR'D OUZEL.

Published June 1777 by J. B. Johnson S^t Pauls Church Yard London.

THE ROSE-COLOURED OUZEL.

The plumage is of a faint rose colour, the head, wings, and tail, black; and the back part of the head crested.

This is a beautiful, and indeed rather a scarce bird in Europe; two or three have been found in England, and a few near Bologn in France, and several in Burgundy: the black feathers on the head, wings, and tail, are glossed with a beautiful cast of green, and of purple; the breast, the stomach, the back, and the smaller coverts, are tinged with a delicate rose colour, of two different shades.

Little is known of the habits of this very elegant bird; great flocks appear every year near the river Don, and the Irtis, and on the borders of the Caspian Sea, they devour great numbers of locusts, and breed amongst the rocks. In the summer they are found near Aleppo, where they are called the Locust bird.

THE BLACK BIRD.

Its body is black, the beak and eye brows yellow.

It inhabits Europe, frequents woods, and disseminates juniper.

The beak is not emarginated or notched, the female is dusky rather than black.

The Blackbird does not, in many instances at least, migrate from one country to another, but in winter conceals itself in hedges, and thickets, in very thick woods near springs, that do not freeze; especially where there are evergreens, that it may be the less exposed, and where perhaps it can best support itself with food during that rigorous season.

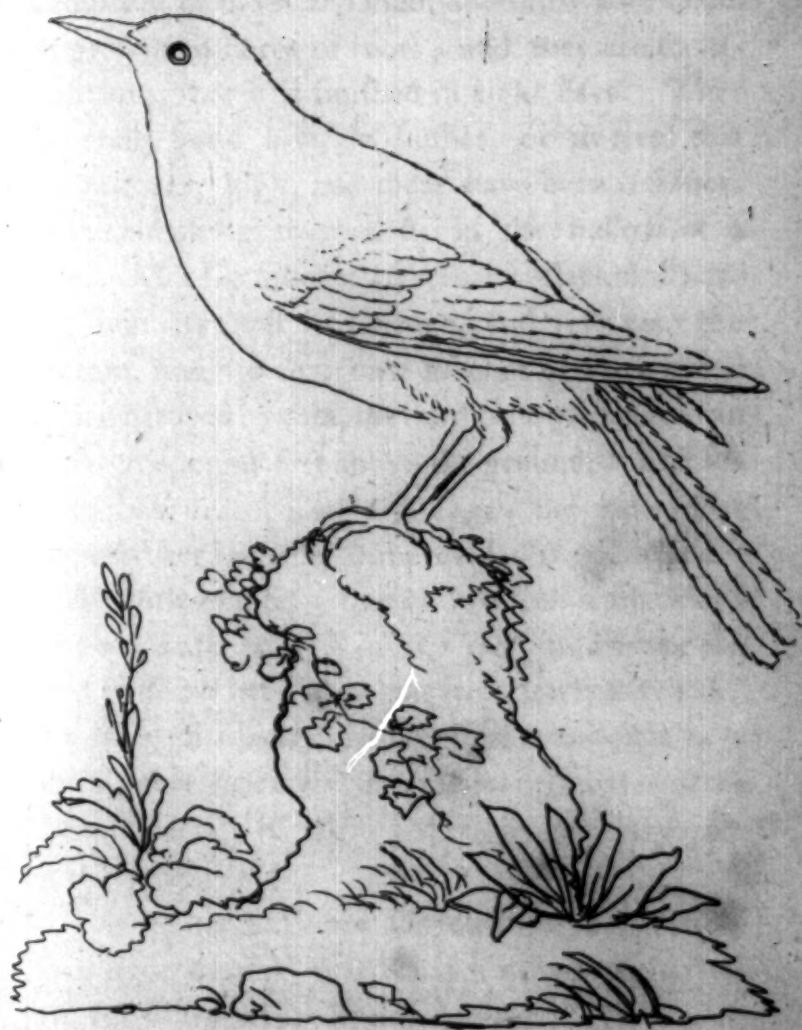
Blackbirds sometimes visit our gardens in summer, and are great devourers of fruit. In a wild state they live on almost all kinds of berries, fruit, and insects: when confined they are fed in part with meat, boiled, and minced; they will eat bread and butter, and are oftentimes kept on a kind of paste, which may be preserved for a long time without spoiling.

The kernels of the pomegranate are poisonous both to them, and to Thrushes.

They are very delicate food, and in those countries where they feed on olives, and myrtle berries, their flesh acquires a juiciness, and a perfume, which is very agreeable.

They are persecuted both by men, and birds of prey, which prevents their increasing very fast; this

ORDER 6^o. *Passeres.*
Genus 69 Turdus.



BLACK BIRD.

Published June 1st 1787 by Jos. Johnson S. Pauls Church Yard London.

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this otherwise would probably be the case, for they begin to lay very early in the spring, and lay more than once. Their nest is a little like the Thrush's, but lined within; the outside is composed of moss, and mud, and lined with bents of grass, and fibres of roots; and they are so industrious, that it is finished in eight days. They generally build low, in bushes, or in trees that are not very high, and there have been instances of their making their nests in the hollow of a tree. Mr. De Salerne says, that a Blackbird having built its nest in a hedge, and very near the bottom, finding that two hatches of young had been destroyed by cats, the third time placed it in an apple tree, eight feet above the ground. The female lays five or six bluish eggs; the male does not assist her in sitting, but provides her with food.

A gentleman says, that he had seen a Blackbird that was hatched early in the year, undertake the care of some little ones that were lately hatched.

Although Blackbirds lay more than once in a season; their first laying frequently miscarries, from the inclemency of the weather, in the early part of the year.

The young birds are supposed to moult more than once the first year, each time the feathers of the cock bird which at first are of a dusky reddish

brown, like those of the hen, become more black, and the sides of their bills more yellow.

The old birds moult at the end of the summer; they begin to sing early in the spring, and sometimes again after moulting.

They do not fly in flocks, but having a very quick sight, and being naturally solitary and timid; they do not suffer themselves to be approached: Yet they are not very sullen when taken, and are easily tamed: In confinement they may be taught other notes than their own; to whistle, and even to speak.

Their note is very fine, but too loud to please, except in the open air.

They are taken easily in traps. Being naturally restless, when confined, they are teasing to other birds that are shut up with them: therefore they are improper birds to be kept with others in an aviary.

A Blackbird is supposed to live about seven years. There have been instances of an accidental variety of this species, whose feathers were mostly white.

THE R I N G O U Z E L.

Its plumage at a distance seems blackish, but upon examination each feather is margined with grey, or ash-colour; on the breast is a large patch, or crescent of white, and the inside of the beak is yellow.

The Ring Ouzel seems to be a bird of passage, though his migrations are not very distinctly known. In October they are seen in some parts of France, they come there in small flocks, from twelve to fifteen, and stay but a few weeks: They disappear when the frosts begin, and return again in April or May. At certain seasons they are seen in greater numbers in Sweden, Scotland, Savoy, Switzerland, and Greece: it is probable too that they are dispersed in some parts of Asia, Africa, and in some of the islands near the African coast.

They have been observed in Hampshire twice a year, in April, and September, in flocks of twenty or thirty; those that breed in Scotland, and Wales, never leave their native country: in Scotland they breed amongst the hills, but come down to feed on the berries of the mountain ash.

On Dart-moore in Devonshire, they build in

the banks, by the side of streams, and are very noisy when disturbed; their nests are placed at the bottom of bushes close to the ground, constructed very much like the Blackbird's, and they lay five eggs.

They feed on berries, and insects, they are fond of ivy berries, and of grapes; in France, during the vintage, they get very fat, and their flesh is then rich, and juicy. They feed too upon snails, and are very dextrous in breaking their shells on a stone, to enable them to get at their contents.

THE REED THRUSH.

The plumage on the upper part of the body is of a reddish brown, beneath of a dingy white; the wing feathers edged with a reddish brown.

It inhabits Europe, particularly the marshy parts, where reeds grow, and climbs up them in the same manner as Woodpeckers climb trees; it builds its nest suspended from three reeds, fastened together, or on mossy hillocks amongst the reeds and rushes. The male sings continually, whilst the female sits; from which it has been called by some the Water Nightingale.

The CHANTING THRUSH is found in the southern provinces of China; it is there called the Nightingale,



BOL

ORDER 6th Passeres.
Genus 69 Turdus.



BLUE THRUSH.

Published June 1st 1787 by Jor. Johnson S^t. Pauls Church Yard London.

Nightingale, and is said to be almost the only bird in that extensive empire that has a song.

The PIGEON THRUSH is found in the Philippine islands; like the Starlings in Europe, it often builds in pigeon-houses, from which it has its name.

The GREEN THRUSH comes from China, it sings well, and like the Starling is fond of wetting itself with water.

The GREY THRUSH inhabits the coast of Comorandel; it is mostly hopping on the ground after insects, which it finds there.

The YELLOW CROWN'D THRUSH inhabits Ceylon, and Java; it is frequently tamed, and kept in cages, and is very imitative.

The NUN THRUSH inhabits the woods of Abyssinia, feeding on berries and fruits, frequenting such trees as are upon the brinks of precipices, which makes it difficult to be shot, or at least to be procured when killed.

The BLACK-BREASTED THRUSH inhabits Cayenne; the throat and breast are black, bordered all round with white like a cravat.

The MUSICIAN THRUSH, is black, mixed with brown; the chin, under the eyes and throat, are reddish orange; and on each side the neck, is a broad patch of black, spotted with white.

It inhabits Cayenne, and seems of a solitary, and timid character; seldom quitting the trees where it perches, but for food. Its song is very melodious, and thought to resemble a flute; by many it is esteemed superior to that of the Nightingale, from the natives this has procured the bird its name of the Musician. It feeds on ants and other insects.

In Cayenne is found the CHIMING THRUSH; this species generally flies in small flocks, of about half a dozen; they have a singular cry, resembling a chime of three bells, of different notes, from which they take their name.

Another kind of Thrush found in Cayenne has a remarkable cry, very loud, and like the alarum of a clock, which it repeats morning and evening;

evening; on this account, it is called the ALARUM THRUSH.

There is a species of Thrush called the Ant-eater, which likewise inhabits Cayenne; it feeds on ants, and runs up trees like the Woodpecker, supporting itself in the same manner by its tail.

GENUS 70.

A M P E L I S.

The beak is strait, and convex, the upper mandible the longer, and slightly bowed, both mandibles are toothed, or notched near the end, the nostrils are hid in bristles.

The tongue is sharp, cartilaginous, and divided.

The middle toe connected at its origin to the outmost toe.

There are no birds more distinguishable than those of this genus, for the delicacy and variety of their colours, or the beauty and glossiness of their plumage.

All the richest colours of nature, the various shades of violet, purple, blue, orange, red, pure white, and velvet black, are lavished here with

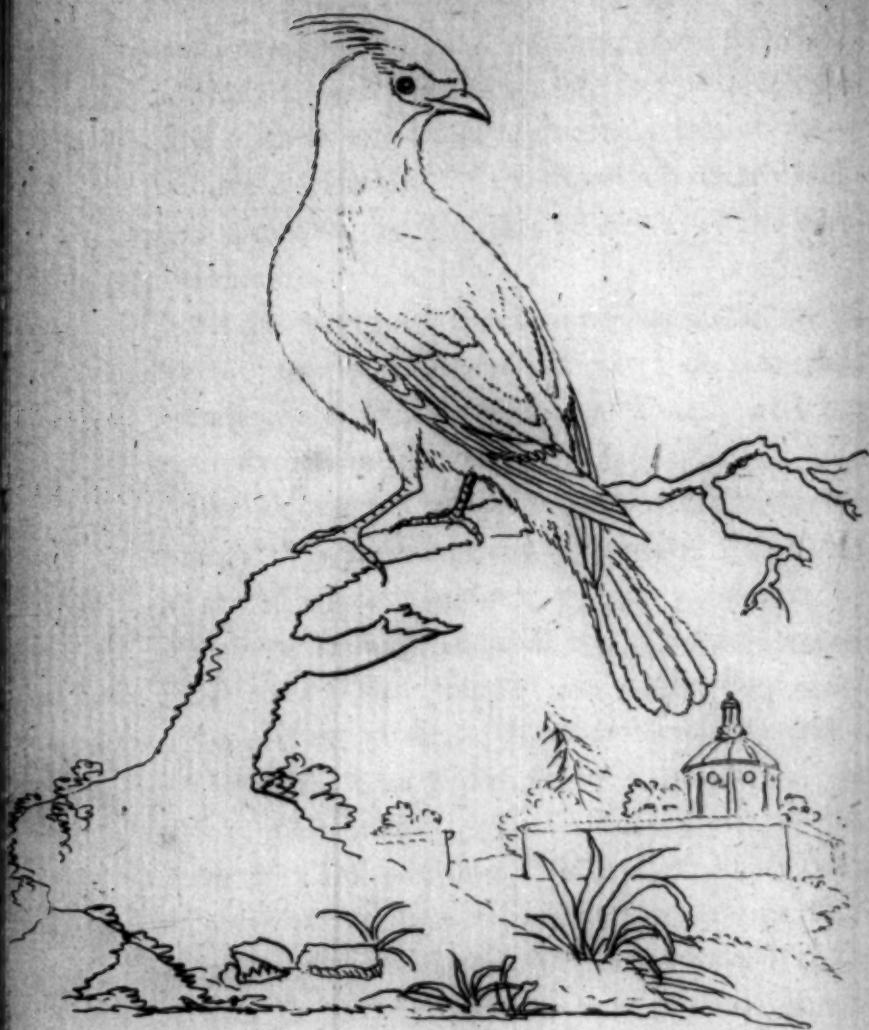
gayest profusion; sometimes most delicately softened into each other, and sometimes most strikingly contrasted, and the changeable shades which the same feathers exhibit in different points of view, produce a splendour of effect, which words cannot express, the imagination conceive, or the pencil imitate.

All the species of this beautiful genus of birds inhabit only the warmer climates of America, seldom more to the south than Brazil, or more northward than Mexico.

In this range of country they seem migratory; though they appear nearly at the same time, they do not associate together; but frequent marshy situations, finding upon the vegetables which grow there, the insects on which they feed. They are of all sizes, from that of a Pigeon to a Thrush. Many are destroyed both for the sake of their feathers, which are beautiful, as well as for their flesh which is delicate food. They are supposed to be very destructive to the rice plantations; if that be case, it is no wonder that the natives should endeavour to prevent their increasing too fast.

B  L

ORDER 6th Passeres.
Genus 70. Ampelis.



CHATTERER of CAROLINA.

Published June 1787 by J. Johnson S. Pauls Church Yard London.

The first species is the WAXEN CHATTERER.

The back part of the head is slightly crested; the secondary feathers in the wing are covered at the tips, with a sealing-wax-like substance.

The birds of this genus inhabit Europe, Asia, and North America. It is difficult to say what parts of Europe the Chatterers principally frequent because they are occasionally found in most; a very few in England. About Edinburgh they appear annually in the month of February; they are numerous in Germany, and perhaps in greater numbers still in the northern parts of Europe, for they seem rather to pass through, than to migrate into the southern parts: they have been seen to arrive in Italy in flocks of more than one hundred, and they have passed through Sweden in such numbers as almost to intercept the light. It is not easy to determine what occasions their leaving their native country, which perhaps may be Tartary.

Their migrations take place sometimes once in three, and sometimes once in seven years, and may arise probably from an occasional scarcity of food.

They

They are particularly fond of grapes, they feed on the berries of the mountain ash, the white thorn, the eglantine, the laurel, almonds, apples, services, wild gooseberries, figs, and almost all juicy fruits.

They are supposed to breed in Tartary, and to build their nests in the holes of rocks.

They are of a gentle disposition, but can only bear confinement for a short time. One that was kept in a cage was silent all the while; it would never eat any grain, but frequently drank, dipping its beak in the water eight or ten times successively.

They are very neat, always removing every thing that is disagreeable to one corner of the cage.

The birds of this species are of a social disposition; they fly in flocks and seem much attached. The male and female caress, and feed one another, and the same affectionate attentions seem to subsist amongst the males towards the males, and likewise amongst the females.

The Chatterer is very delicate food, its song is said to be pleasing, though it seems very little known.

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ORDER 6th *Passeres.*
Genus 70 Ampelis.



POMPADOUR.

Published June 1797 by J. Johnson S. Pauls Church Yard London.

Another Chatterer, a variety perhaps of this species, is found in America. It has been observed that the breastbone of this bird is advantageously formed for cutting the air, from which it seems intended for distant migrations. It is found from Canada to South Carolina. The female has not the sealing-wax-like substance on her wing.

THE POMPADOUR CHATTERER.

Its plumage is of a beautiful purple, the greater coverts of the wing are long, narrow and hollowed beneath, the tips without webs, hanging elegantly over the quills.

The birds of this species inhabit Cayenne in North America; are migratory, appearing in Guiana in March and September, the seasons when those fruits are ripe on which they feed; they frequent high trees by the water-side, and build their nests on the highest branches. They never retire into the interior parts of the woods.

There are several other species of this beautiful genus inhabiting nearly the same countries, and probably resembling those which have been described in their manners; we will however mention one other species called the

C A.

CARUNCULATED CHATTERER,

It is about twelve inches in length, the plumage a pure white, the bill black, an inch and half in length; at the base is a fleshy substance, like that of the turkey, except that it is flaccid, and pendulous, when the bird is in a state of repose, but when it is agitated, this fleshy substance swells, lengthens to the extent of two inches, and becomes erect in consequence of the air which is forced into it through the opening of the palate. The cry of the Carunculated Chatterer is very loud, and seems composed merely of two syllables, *ang, on*, pronounced in a drawling manner. It inhabits Brazil and Cayenne.

GENUS 71. L O X I A.

The beak is convex above and below, strong and very thick at the base.

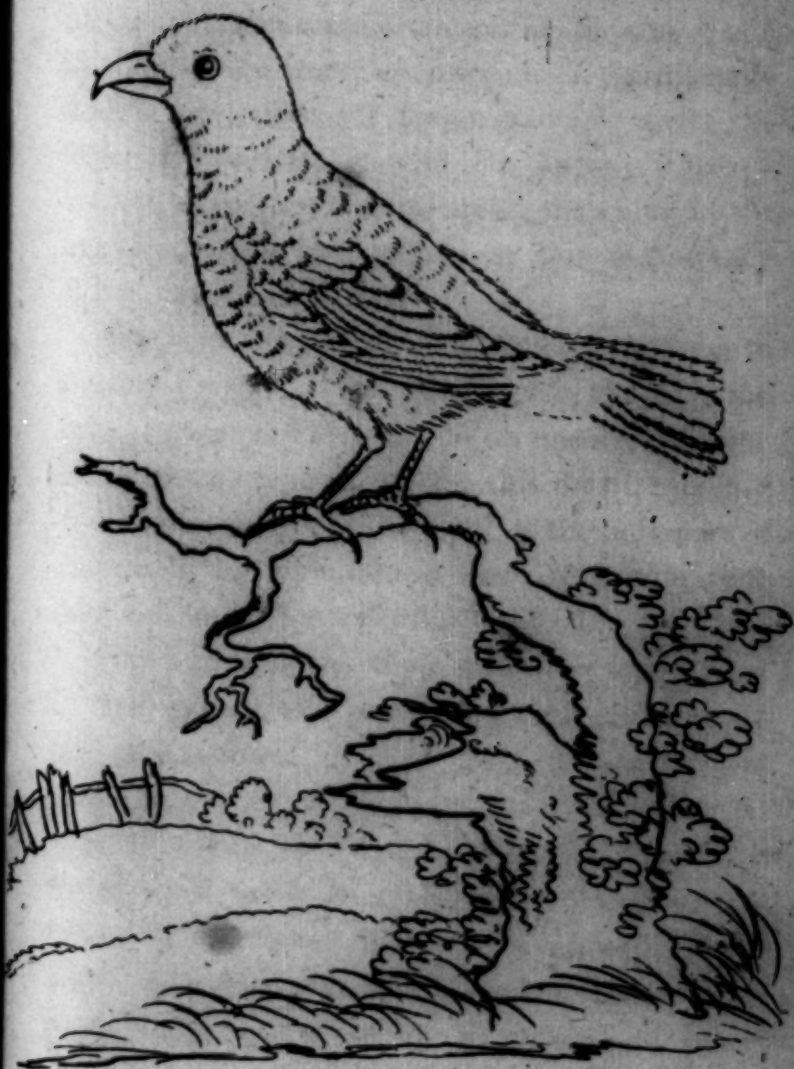
The lower mandible inflected, with a lateral margin.

The tongue, as if cut off at the end.

THE COMMON CROSS-BILL.

The two mandibles cross each other different ways, at the point; but it is very singular, that in some the lower mandible crosses to the left, and
in

ORDER 6th Passeres.
Genus 71 Loria.



CROSS BILL.

Published June 1. 1767 by J. J. Johnson St. Pauls Church Yard London.

B  L

in others to the right; however awkward this conformation may appear at the first view, we shall upon reflection find, that it is judiciously adapted to their way of life, and very well contrived to separate the scales of the fir cones, and to take out the seeds, upon which they principally feed. They place the lower mandible under the scale, and separate it with the upper; it is remarked that they seldom break the cones in the trees on which they grow; by this means they disseminate or plant firs.

The beak is also very useful in assisting them to climb; they use it for this purpose, almost in the same manner as Parrots. With one stroke of the bill they can split an apple; this they frequently do in order to get at the pippins, the only part of the apple on which they feed; in confinement they will feed very well on hemp-seed.

This bird inhabits those countries only where fir trees grow, and principally cold climates, or the mountainous parts of such as are temperate.

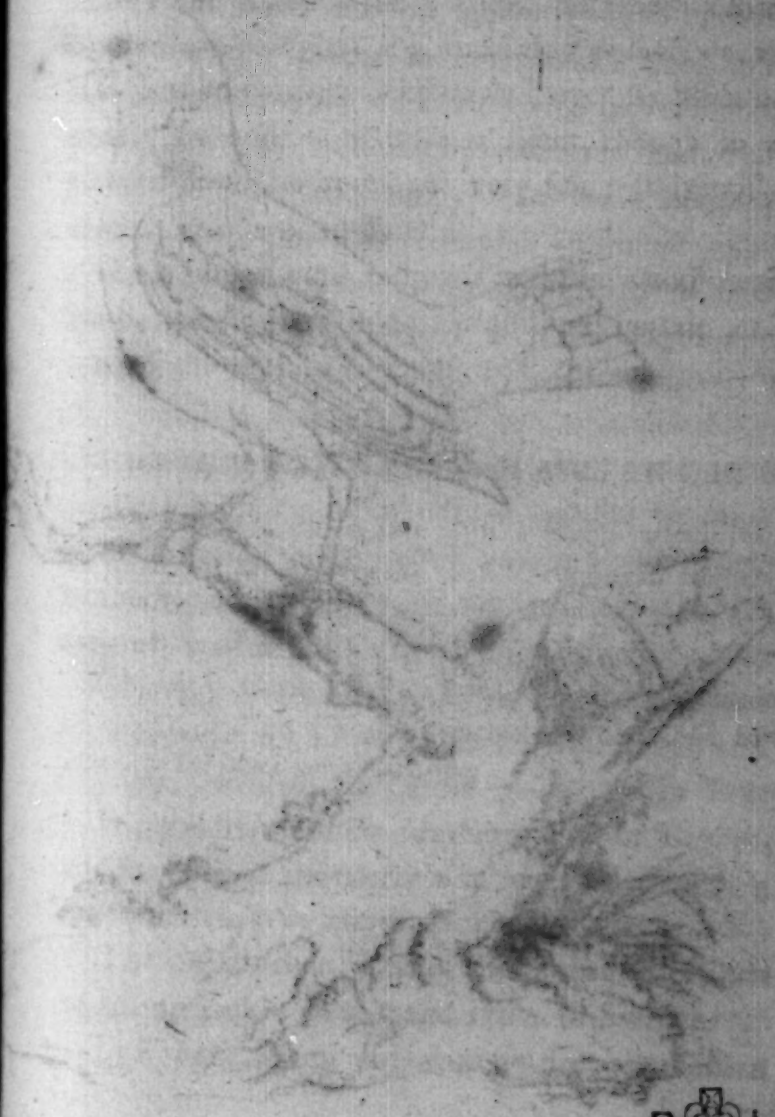
It is found in Sweden, Poland, Germany, Switzerland, in the Alps, and the Pyrenean mountains; in these countries it resides throughout the year. Sometimes the Crossbills migrate in great flocks, and are found in England, and other countries;

countries ; but these migrations are supposed not to be constant and regular, and may perhaps proceed from an accidental scarcity of that food of which they are fond, in those countries which they generally inhabit ; or perhaps they may have been carried away by some storm of wind, for they have been observed to arrive in great numbers, and sometimes so much fatigued, as to be easily caught by the hand : a Crossbill has been found in Greenland, but it was probably accidentally driven there, as it could not in that dreary region have found its proper food.

Crossbills in this respect are said to differ from other birds, that they make their nests in the depth of winter, in the month of January, on the higher branches of fir trees ; fastening them with the resin of the fir, and plastering them in such a manner with that substance, that the wet from the snow, or rain, can never penetrate. The corners of the mouth of their young, as in most other young birds, are yellow, and it is probable that the hen lays four or five eggs.

The colours of the plumage of these birds differ, in different individuals, scarcely any two being exactly alike ; and the colours in the same bird frequently vary, from a dark blackish shade, to shades inclining to red, or green.

The



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ORDER 6th Passeres.
Genus 71 Loxia.



PINE GROSBK or HAW FINCH

Published June 1. 1787 by J. Johnson St Pauls Church Yard London.

The plumage of the female is less bright than that of the male. It seems to be a very stupid bird, suffering itself to be approached, sometimes so as to be killed with a stick. It scarcely flies away when it is shot at; and being as inactive, as it is unsuspicious, it is often destroyed by birds of prey. In confinement it is silent, though in a natural state its notes are very fine; it is easily tamed, and is good food.

This bird is very frequent in the fir woods near Bath, and at Barr in Staffordshire at certain seasons of the year.

THE GROSBEAK or HAWFINCH.

Its first quill feathers have each a spot of white about the middle of the inner web; the four outer quill feathers, seem to be cut off at the tips, in the form of a battle axe, and are bent at the end.

The tail is black, the two middle feathers inclining to ash colour, and all the outer feathers have the end half white on the inner webs, and tips.

It inhabits the more southern parts of Europe, and feeds upon the kernels of cherries, which it disseminates, it is injurious to gardens.

The Hawfinch is found in all the temperate parts of Europe, from Spain, and Italy, to Sweden.

In France, when the winters are very severe,
these

these birds disappear for a short time. In the summer they frequent woods; and orchards in the winter. In Burgundy there are fewer in winter than in summer; they seem to arrive in numbers in April, they fly in small flocks, and perch in copses. They build in trees about ten or twelve feet from the ground; like the nest of turtles, theirs are composed of twigs of dry wood, fastened with small roots; they lay five eggs, blue, spotted with brown: as their numbers are not considerable, it is probable that they breed but once a year. They feed their young on insects, and chrysalis's; and if any attempt be made to rob their nests, they defend them with great resolution with their beaks, which being strong enough to break cherry-stones; enable them to bite very hard.

Besides fruit they eat many insects, but when confined they constantly refuse flesh. In their natural state they feed on almost all kind of grain, and on the kernels of fruit; on the seeds of firs, the mast of beech, on walnuts, and almonds.

Their hearing seems very imperfect, and they have very little note. They are not taken with a bird call.

When they are confined, it is proper to put them in cages, separate from other birds, for without appearing at all irritated, they are very

apt

apt to destroy birds smaller than themselves, by pinching out pieces of their flesh with their bills.

They are migratory, and seen in England only occasionally.

THE PINE GROSBEAK

Has two bars of white on the wings. On the head, neck, breast, and near the tail, the plumage is of a rose coloured crimson.

It inhabits forests of fir trees in Sweden, and Canada, and the pine forests of Invercauld in Aberdeenshire, feeding upon the seeds in the cones, and disseminating the firs.

In the night it sings very melodiously, and almost without ceasing.

In the winter it migrates into the more southern provinces of Sweden. The plumage of the younger inclines to a reddish, in the older birds to a yellowish cast.

It makes its nest on trees, at a small height from the ground, with small twigs and fibres, lined with feathers. The female lays four white eggs, which are hatched in June. The Pine Grosbeaks are taken about Petersburg in autumn, in great numbers, and brought to market; in spring they retire to Lapland.

THE

THE BULLFINCH.

Its legs, wings, and tail are black; the lowest feathers of the tail, and the hinder wing feathers, white.

It inhabits the woods in Europe, and disseminates the service trees. The male is red underneath, the female dusky ash colour. They are frequent in Russia and Siberia, and caught for the table.

It may be taught to whistle any tune, and seldom forgets what it has learnt; it will become so tame as to come when called, perch on its master's shoulder, and whistle a tune when commanded.

There have been several instances of their becoming quite black.

The female Bullfinch may be taught to pipe as well as the male. It has been said, that a gentleman who had whistled some tunes to a Bullfinch, was very agreeably surpris'd to hear the Bullfinch imitate the song, but introducing at the same time some elegant variations, which were so well executed, that the teacher acknowledged himself to be surpass'd: Though on the other hand it has been observed, that a Bullfinch who had only heard some ploughmen whistle, learnt

to

ORDER 6th Passeres.
Genus 71 Loxia.



BULLFINCH.

Published June 1st 1797 by J. J. Johnson S^t Pauls Church Yard London.

BOL

to whistle in the same loud, and uncouth manner.

This species seems to be of an affectionate character, and capable of attachment: one which had been tamed, escaped from its cage, and lived in a wild state for more than a year; upon hearing the voice of the girl who had taken care of it, it returned to her again. It is related that when they have been taken from those who have been accustomed to feed them, that several have been known to pine away, and die of grief. There is a story told of one that is hardly to be believed; his cage is said to have been thrown down by some dirty and ragged people; the bird did not seem very much hurt at the time, but it never saw any mean, shabby person afterwards without being seized with convulsions, and at length died in one of these fits, about eight months after the accident.

The following instance is related of their affection to one another: four young Bullfinch's of the same nest were reared together, the three strongest, as soon as they could feed themselves, assisted in feeding the smallest, who was not yet capable of providing for itself.

The male and female, after the breeding season is over, continue to fly together.

The Bullfinch is not uncommon in England, and makes its nest in bushes; it is composed chiefly of moss; the eggs are of a blueish white, marked at the larger end with dark spots. They breed the latter end of May, and beginning of June.

In summer the bull-finch mostly frequents woods, and retired situations; in winter, it haunts gardens and orchards, and is very destructive to the young buds. In Germany great pains are taken to teach these birds to pipe, and even to speak, and many are imported therefrom.

THE CARDINAL GROSBEAK.

It has a beautiful red crest, the beak is of a pale red colour; round the beak and on the throat it is black; the rest of the plumage is a rich scarlet.

It inhabits North America, from Newfoundland to Louisiana, and feeds upon maize, buckwheat, &c. of these it frequently collects a hoard, perhaps equal in quantity to a bushel, and artfully conceals its magazine, with leaves, and sticks, leaving only a small entrance. The colours of the male are more beautiful, and vivid, than those of the female. It is a hardy and vigorous

rous bird, easily tamed, and its natural notes are very pleasing.

Indeed it is often called the Virginian Nightingale. They warble their melodious songs in the mornings of the spring, perched on the highest trees. They will sing in a cage, and are frequently brought to England; in a state of confinement, the male and female seem to harbour such a resentment, that they will often kill one another.

They seldom are seen in greater numbers than three or four. When tame, they will learn to whistle; but their natural note is said not to be unlike that of the English Thrush. In summer they haunt the swamps, in autumn retire to the south.

THE JAVA GROSBEAK OR JAVA SPARROW.

The plumage is dusky, the temples white, the beak red.

It inhabits Asia, and Ethiopia, frequenting plantations of rice, to which it is very destructive.

The plumage of this bird is exquisitely delicate, both from the harmony of the colours, and because it is so smooth, that it appears like velvet, or rather like that fine powdery bloom which is found on some plumbs.

This bird is often described on Chinese paper.

THE GREEN GROSBEAK, OR GREENFINCH.

The plumage is of a yellowish green, the quill feathers are edged with yellow, the four outer tail feathers are yellow from the middle to the base.

It inhabits Europe, is not frequent in Russia, and scarcely found in Siberia. In the winter it frequents woods, sheltering itself from the intemperance of the weather, upon ever-greens, or amongst the fading foliage of the oaks.

It makes its nest in those trees, and sometimes in bushes; the outside is composed of hay, and stubble, the middle of moss, the inside of feathers, wool and hair.

The female lays five or six eggs, and sits so closely, that sometimes she may be taken on the nest with her young. The male occasionally relieves his partner, sitting upon the eggs in his turn; and amuses himself at other times, by flying in little circles round the nest.

Greenfinches are easily tamed, sometimes they will eat out of the hand in five minutes after they are taken. To effect this, let it be carried into a dark place, and perch it upon your finger, it

will not attempt to move, not knowing on account of the darkness where to fly; bring then the finger of the other hand under its breast, raising the bird a little; from the uneasiness of its situation on the finger, on which it was first placed, it will climb on the other; if this be often repeated, and the bird be stroked and caressed, it begins to lose its fears; and if the light be let in by degrees, it will sometimes immediately eat bruised seed out of the hand, and from that time become tame.

There are many other species of Grosbeaks.

The Grenadier Grosbeak inhabits St. Helena, and the Cape of Good Hope; frequenting watery places, and making a curious nest among the reeds; it is constructed with small twigs, curiously interwoven with cotton, and divided into two apartments, with one entrance; the upper apartment for the male, and the lower for the female. The nest is of so close a contexture, as to be impenetrable to the weather. The colour of this bird is a brilliant red; amongst the green reeds they appear like so many scarlet lillies, which produces a very striking effect.

The Fantail Grosbeak inhabits Virginia, and carries its tail spread in an horizontal direction.

The Philippine Grosbeak makes a most curious nest, in the form of a cylinder, only swelling out in the middle. It is composed of the fine fibres of leaves, and suspended from the extreme branch of a tree. The entrance is at the bottom, and after ascending to the widest part, the proper nest is made there, towards one side; here the ingenious little bird hatches her young in security.

Another Grosbeak very nearly resembling the Philippine Grosbeak, makes a curious nest in a spiral shape, like the shell of the Nautilus; and suspends it from a slender twig, over the water, always turning the opening towards that quarter, where the least rain may be expected.

The Abyssinian Grosbeak's nest is not less ingeniously contrived; it is suspended like the others; its form is that of a pyramid, with an opening towards the east; the cavity is divided by a partition; after ascending a little way, the bird descends again into its nest, on the other side of the partition, which by this means is secured from monkeys, squirrels, and snakes, as well as from the

the rain, which in that country continues for months together.

The Penfile Grosbeak, which inhabits Madagascar, composes its nest of straw and reeds, interwoven in the shape of a bag, fastened above to the twig of a tree, which overhangs the water. The entrance is from below, and the real nest is placed on one side, within this curious contrivance. Every year the bird fastens a new nest to the end of the last, and five are often found hanging one from another. Like Rooks they build in society, and five or six hundred nests have been seen on one tree.

The Minute Grosbeak is only the size of a Wren, it inhabits Surinam, and Cayenne. They live in pairs, the male never forsaking the female. It is a sprightly bird, frequenting lands that have been for some time uncultivated, and even approaching habitations. The nest is about two inches across.

Another species called the Coly, is placed by Linnæus among the Grosbeaks, its tail is wedge-form, like the tail of a Pheasant.

GENUS 72. E M B E R I Z A.

The bill is strong, and conic, the sides of each mandible bending inwards; in the roof of the upper mandible is a hard knob, well formed for the purposes of breaking, and bruising hard seeds.

THE SNOW-BUNTING,

Like some other birds that inhabit cold climates, has a summer and a winter dress; in the summer the plumage is tawney, but at the approach of winter, the head, the neck, the stomach, and great part of the wings, become white. Linnæus says, they vary according to age and season. They inhabit Greenland, Hudson's Bay, Spitzbergen, and the mountains in Lapland. They seem to make the colder regions their summer residence, and it is wonderful when we consider that they are graminivorous, at least when they are with us, how they can subsist in Spitzbergen, where there is scarcely any vegetation, except of mosses, and plants of that class.

In the winter they leave these dreary regions, and come to warmer climates, in amazing numbers; they fill the roads and fields in Sweden.

In

In the winter 1778, they came in such multitudes to one of the Orkney islands, as almost to cover it, yet scarcely any two agreed exactly in colour: they make the Feroe islands, Shetland, and the Orkneys their resting places; they abound in the highlands in Scotland; their flocks are so great, and they fly so close together, that the fowlers destroy great numbers. When they first arrive, they are very lean, but soon become fat, and are a delicious food. In Scotland they are called Snow Flakes, and a few breed like the Ptarmigans on the highest hills. In their summer feathers, they are often seen in the south of England; now and then a milk white one is found. In Russia and Sweden, the flocks are immense; they frequent villages, some are white, some speckled, some brown, and even their winter dress seems as various, as their summer plumage; they are found also in Germany, where they are caught, and fed with millet, and are as delicious food as the Ortolan.

In the spring they are seen in vast flocks in Norway, and stay about three weeks: they then return to the dreary northern regions, in order to breed in security. They arrive in Greenland about April, build their nests in the clefts of rocks, in the mountains, in May; the outside is grass, it is lined with feathers, and the fur of the

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arctic fox; the female lays five eggs, the male sings melodiously near the nest.

When they collect together in autumn, on the shores, in order to migrate, they are caught in numbers and dried, by the Laplanders, who take them in hair springes.

THE ORTOLAN BUNTING.

The quill feathers are black; the three first feathers in the tail are whitish on their margin, the rest black, the inner ends of the outmost feathers are marked with a great spot of white.

This species is migratory, and not found very far to the north; their winter residence is not very well known; they appear with the Swallows in spring, and sing very pleasingly in the night.

Their nest is constructed without much art, they lay four or five eggs, and breed twice in the summer. When they first arrive, they are very lean. By epicures they are esteemed a most delicious food. In order to be fattened they are confined in a room which is lighted by lanthorns; it is supposed that this uniform light, keeps them quiet, and that they fatten the better; they are fed with oats, and millet, until they become one lump



B  L

ORDER 6th. *Passeres*.

Genus 72 *Emberiza*.



RICE BUNTING.

Published June 1. 1787 by Jos. Johnson, St Pauls Church Yard London.

lump of fat, and if they were not killed just at the proper time, they would die.

The Romans had aviaries built with great magnificence, and furnished with every convenience for the purpose of feeding Ortolans, and other birds; and the present Italians are in the same practice.

THE YELLOW BUNTING, or YELLOW HAMMER.

The tail feathers are blackish, the two outer have a white spot on their inner web at the tip.

It inhabits Europe, and is very common in England. It builds a large flat nest on the ground, in meadows, of hay and straw, mixed with moss, dried leaves, and stalks, very indifferently put together, and lined with hair, or wool. In the winter it frequents villages and barns; in the summer it destroys the larvæ of the common cabbage butterfly.

THE RICE BUNTING.

The plumage is dusky, the back of the neck reddish, the stomach black, the tail feathers sharply pointed.

The female is of a very different colour from the male, her plumage is grey, but her tail feathers are like the male's.

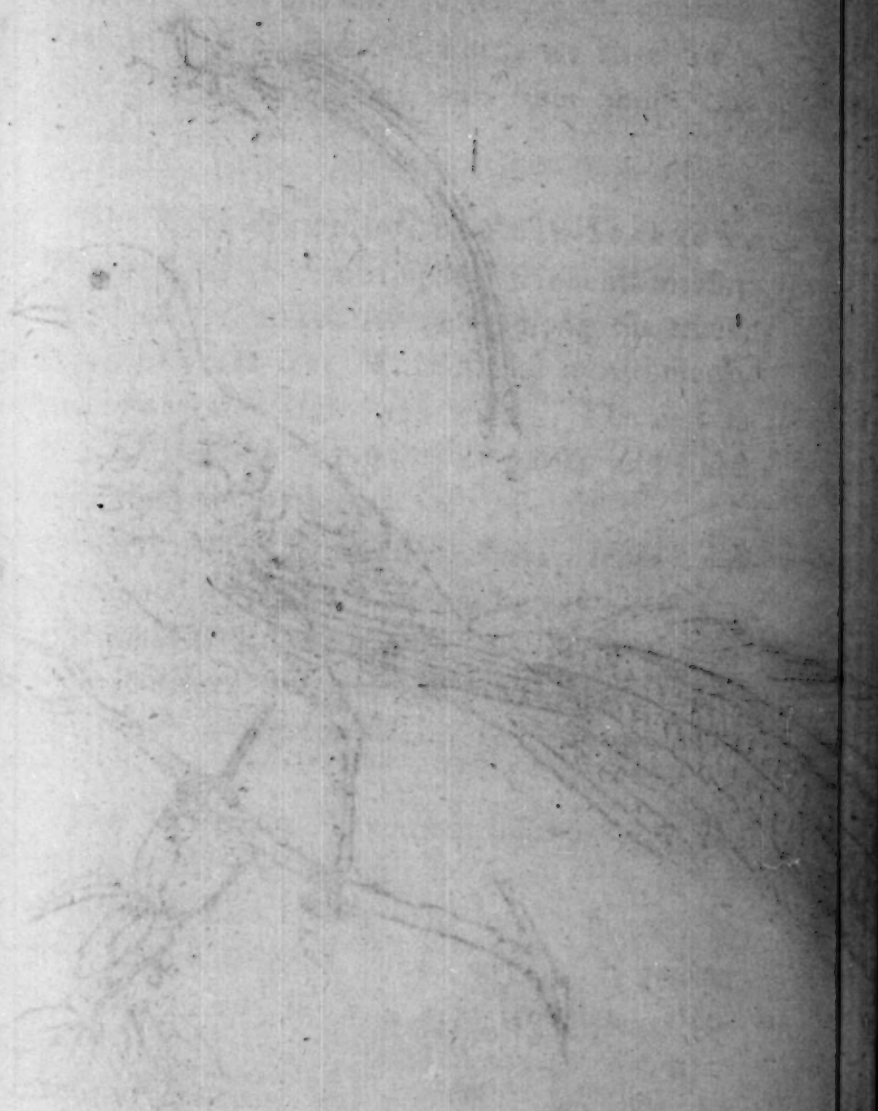
These birds inhabits Cuba, and make great havock amongst the rice plantations; for rice is their favourite food, when it is in its milky state. In a very short time they destroy whole acres of rice.

In autumn, after doing a great deal of mischief in Cuba, the females migrate to Carolina; they pass over the sea in immense flocks, and are often heard by the sailors in their passage. Their stay in Carolina is very short, about three weeks, in that space of time they become so fat, that when they are shot, they often burst in the fall.

In the spring, both the male, and the female Rice birds, make another short visit to Carolina; some few stay there the whole year.

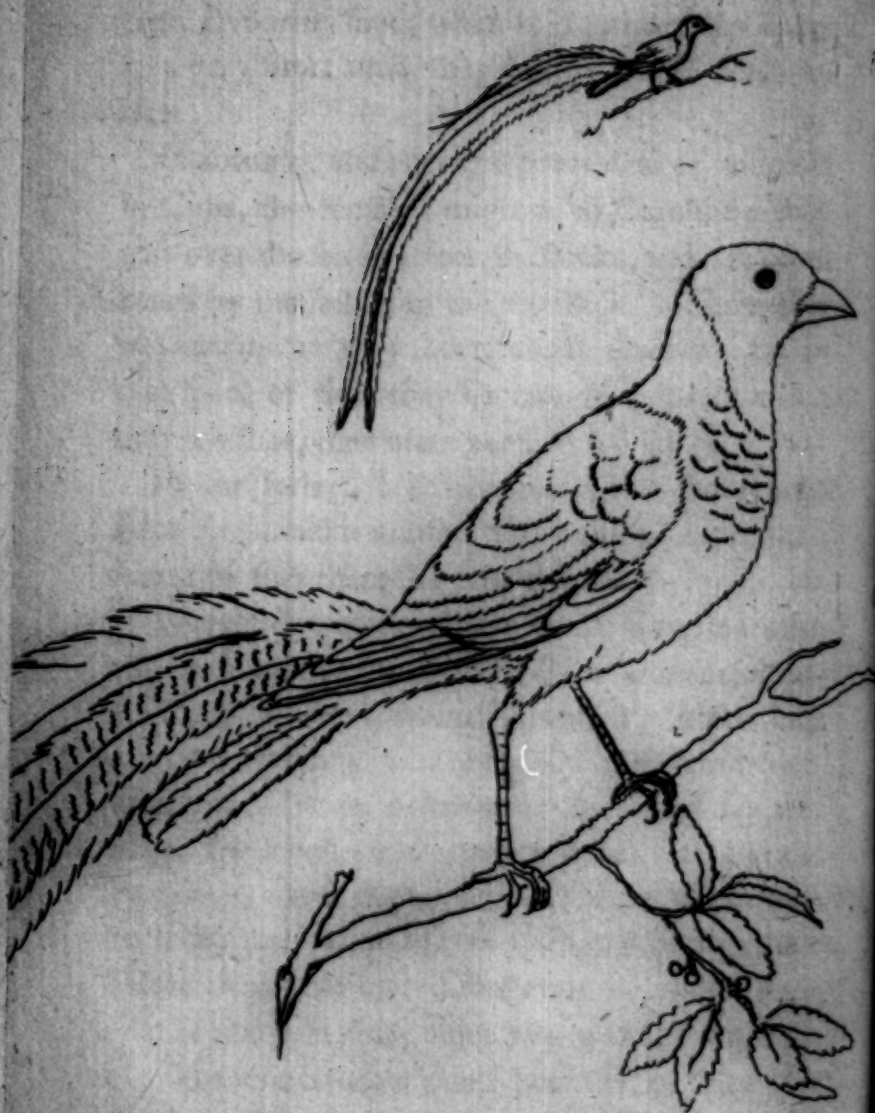
This bird was never known in Carolina until rice was cultivated there. By a wonderful instinct, they have followed this plant; in the same manner Sparrows have passed into countries, where they were unknown, until they became better inhabited, and corn was cultivated; and Partridges have continued to spread themselves with the cultivation of corn, in countries where before they were utter strangers.

It is not a century since rice was first introduced into Carolina, a small quantity of some that was brought as a sea store, in a vessel, was left in
the



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ORDER 6th Passeres.
Genus 72 *Emberiza*.



WHIDAH BUNTING.

Published June 1787 by Jos. Johnson S^r Pauls Church Yard London.

the bottom of a sack, perhaps not more than half a bushel; from this small beginning, the immense quantities were produced, which we have for a long time been supplied with from South Carolina.

The REED-BUNTING, or REED-SPARROW. This bird, as its name implies, frequents marshy situations; it makes its nest among the reeds, suspended from four of them like a hammock, and a few feet above the water. The nest is composed of the dry stalks of grass, and lined with the down of reeds.

The male bird in the spring, sings perched upon a reed, and by night as well as by day.

It inhabits England, and most parts of Europe, between Sweden, and Italy; but in many countries it is migratory.

The WHIDAH BUNTING inhabits Angola, and other parts of Africa; by some it is called the Widow Bird. The two middle feathers in the tail are four inches long, very broad, ending in a long thread; the two next are about thirteen inches in length, broad in the middle, narrower at the ends, and pointed; and from the shaft of these, proceeds another long thread, the
other

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other tail feathers are little more than two inches long.

They moult in November ; the male then loses the long tail feathers, until the next moulting time in the spring : and from November, until June, is little distinguished for the beauty of his plumage, or the sweetness of his song.

Travellers report that the birds of this species make a curious nest of two stories, the upper for the male, and the lower for the female.

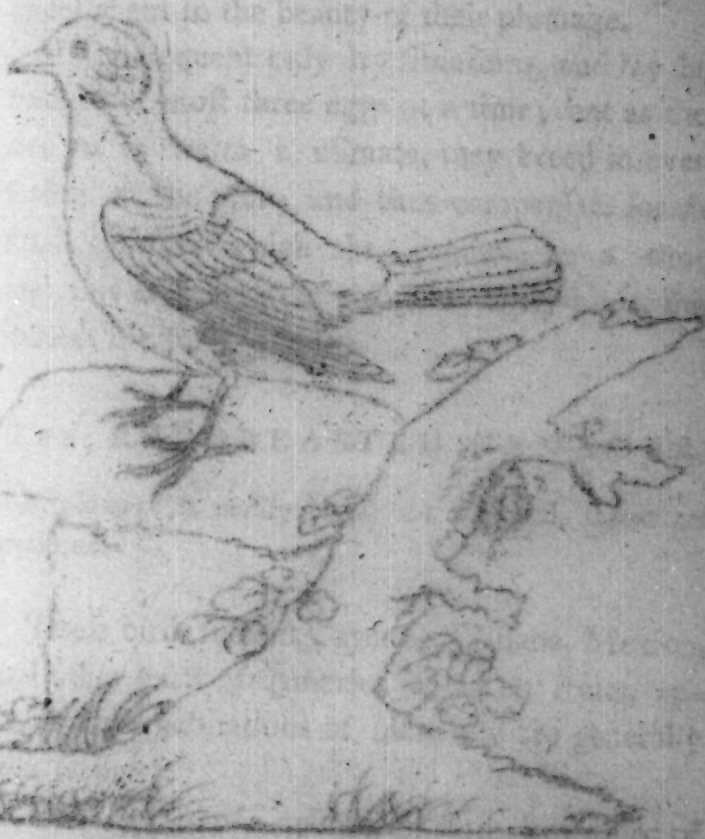
The FAMILIAR BUNTING inhabits Java, it is of a gentle disposition, and easily tamed. A gentleman saw one in a cage at Java, that was so fearless as to perch upon the hand.

When any person whistled to it, it sung sweetly in return, and if a dish of water was presented, it immediatly bathed itself. It was fed with rice.

GENUS 73. T A N A G R A.

The beak is conic, a little inclining towards the point, at the base a little three sided ; pointed, and notched near the point.

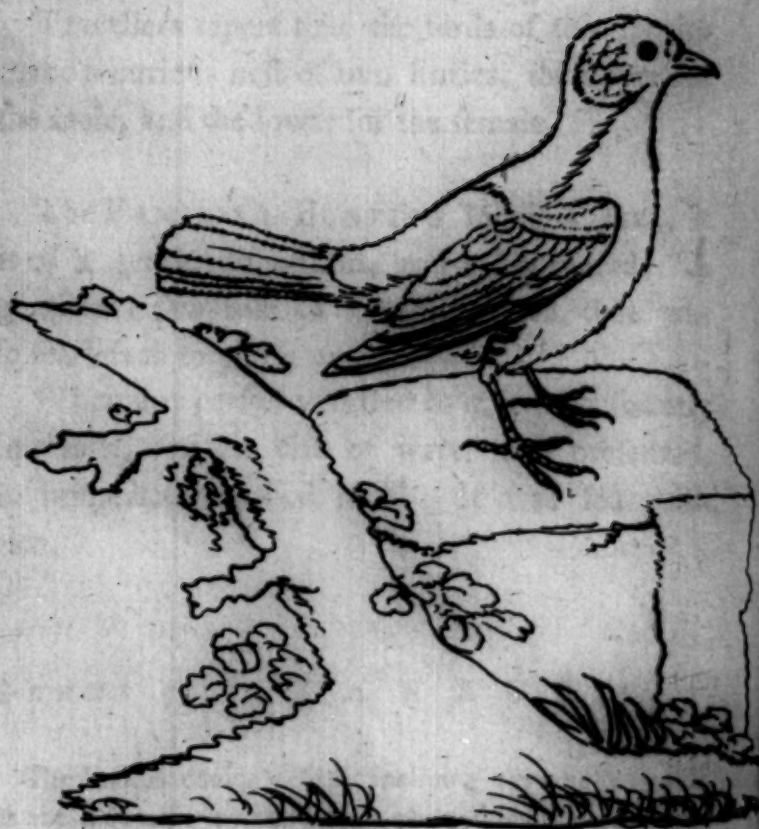
The



B^CL

ORDER 6th *Passeres.*

Genus 73 *Tanagra.*



TANAGER of PARADISE.

Published June 22nd 1797 by Jos. Johnson S. Pauls Church Yard London.

The birds of this Genus inhabit in great numbers the warmer climates of America. There is a great resemblance in their habits, and character, to the common Sparrows; like them they feed upon grain, fly low, and take short, and interrupted flights; and are of a sociable disposition, approaching the habitations of men; but they excel them in the beauty of their plumage.

They frequent only dry situations, and lay but two, or at most three eggs at a time; but as they live in so warm a climate, they breed in every season of the year; and thus compensate for the small number which they produce at a time, and this is indeed the case with many birds, that inhabit the torrid zone.

THE RED-BREASTED TANAGER.

Its plumage is mostly black, the forehead, throat and breast red.

These birds inhabit Cayenne, Guiana, Mexico, and other parts of America; feed on fruits, approach the habitations of men, and are generally seen in pairs.

Their nest is of a cylindrical form, composed of leaves, and dried fibres; and suspended from the
branch

branch of some low tree, with an opening at the bottom.

THE RED TANAGER.

The general colour of its plumage is a pale red: The wings and tail, are black; the tail feathers are white at the points.

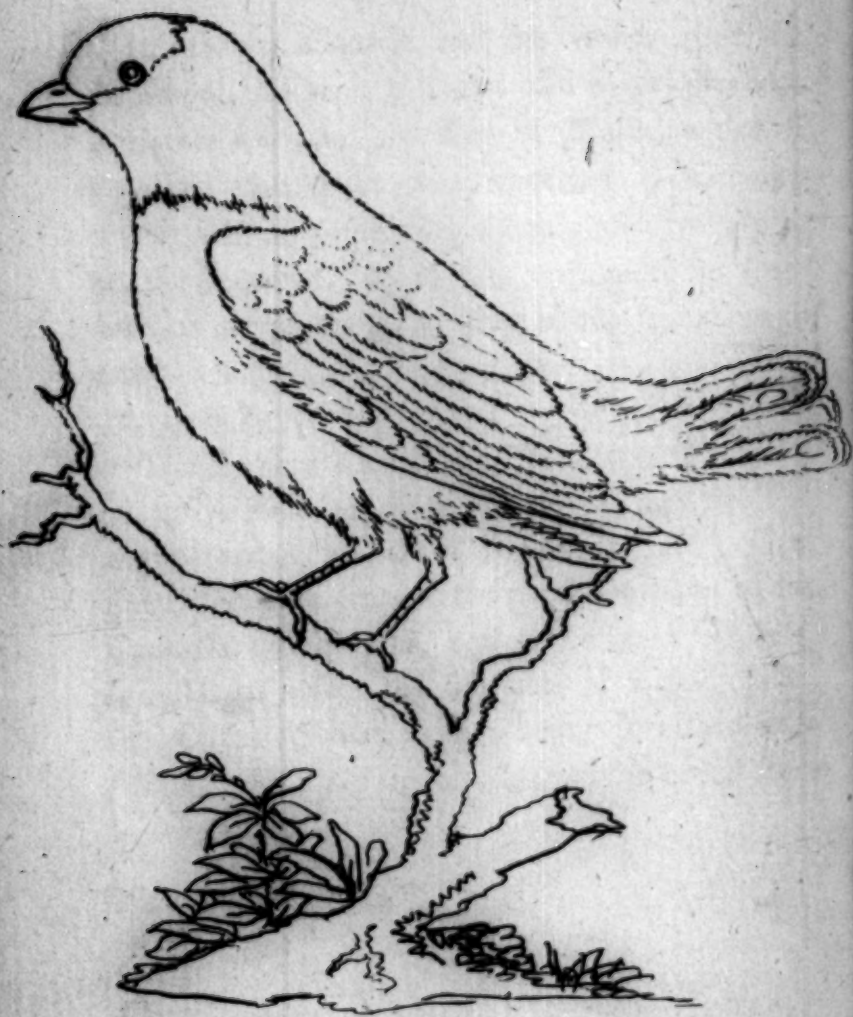
It inhabits Canada, and the woods near the Mississippi. The song of this bird is very pleasing. It makes a winter provision of Maize, which it conceals with great care, covering it with dry leaves, and only suffering a small hole to remain for the entrance. It is so attentive to its treasure, as never to go very far from it, except to drink.

The BLACK-CROWNED TANAGER seems an exception to the remark of Buffon, that the Tanagers are all of them American birds, since this is found in Asia, in the neighbourhood of the Caucassian mountains, and at Teflis in Georgia. It builds its nest in the branches of a tree, called the Christ's thorn, which being furnished with strong, and sharp spines, secures the brood from birds of prey.



B  L

ORDER 6th *Passeres.*
Genus 73 *Tanagra.*



GOLDEN TANAGER.

Published June 1st 1787 by Jos. Johnson St. Pauls Church Yard London.

The JACARINI TANAGER inhabits Brazil, frequenting land newly cultivated; its manner of hopping upwards, from branch to branch, first alighting on one foot, and then on the other, alternately, is very singular; every leap is accompanied with a little note, and at the same time it spreads its tail.

There are several other Tanagers, but not very distinguishable from those already mentioned, in their manners, and character.

GENUS 74. FRINGILLA.

The bill in birds of this Genus is perfectly conic, (not like the Grosbeak's, rounded from the base to the point in each mandible, slender towards the end, and sharp pointed.

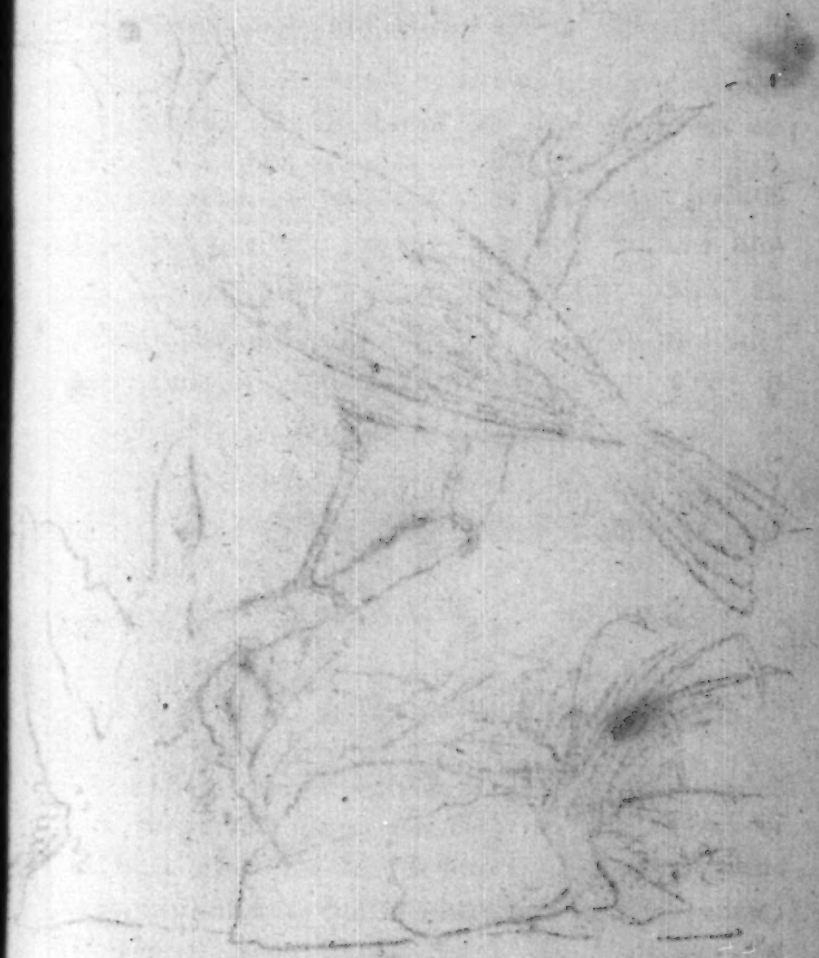
THE CHAFFINCH.

The bill is of a pale blue, with a black tip; the inner and outer webs of the quill feathers, white on their lower parts, forming with other of the wing feathers three white lines, across the wing. The outmost feather on each side the tail marked obliquely with white from the top to the bottom; the next has a white spot on the inner web, the rest are black.

Chaffinches inhabit all parts of Europe, and some parts of Africa: In England they are very common,

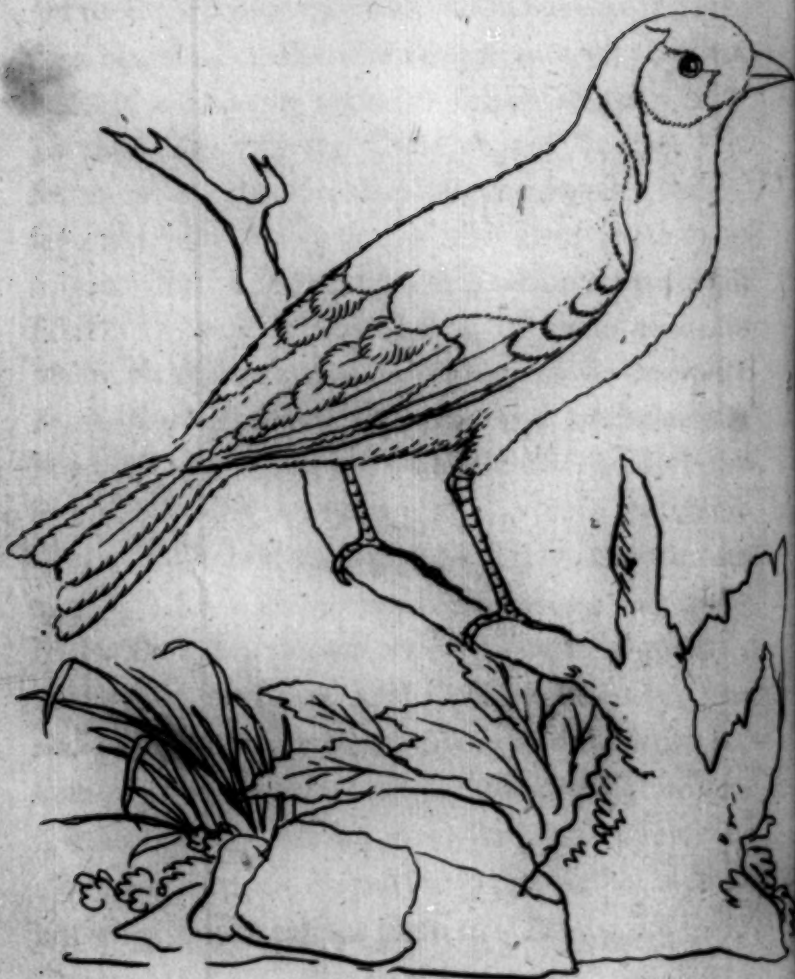
common, continue all the year, frequenting our court yards. In Sweden, the females migrate to the southward, and return again in the spring; the males stay all the year; and even in Hampshire flocks of females only, have been observed; at least from their plumage they have been supposed to be so; but when we consider that the seasons occasion an alteration in the colours of some birds, there may be reason to suspect that this may be the case with the Chaffinches: Indeed this seems more probable, than that the females should separate from the males of the same species, to migrate into another country, when they might subsist as well as the males, in those climates where they were native. Their nest is curiously constructed of fibres of plants, and moss, neatly lined with hair, wool, and feathers. They build in bushy shrubs, or trees well cloathed with foliage, artfully concealing it, and lay five or six eggs. The male is numbered among our song birds, though its notes are not very melodious; it has been remarked that when a Chaffinch has accidentally lost its sight, it sung more constantly than before; and this has induced some inconsiderate persons, to be guilty of the cruelty of closing their eyes, by burning the eyelids with a hot wire; this occasions them to inflame, and unite together;

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B  L

ORDER 6th *Passeres.*
Genus ; 1 Fringilla.



GOLD FINCH.

Published June 12 1769 by J. Johnson S^t Pauls Church Yard London.

together; thus to amuse a thoughtless person with an indifferent song, a poor bird is condemned to perpetual blindness.

The beak of the Chaffinch is very strong; they are lively birds, and in constant action; they are not often perched, but run upon the ground; they live mostly upon grain and seeds, and feed their young with insects and caterpillars.

THE BRAMBLING.

They inhabit woods in Europe; at certain seasons they migrate into England, in vast flocks; and are occasionally seen with Chaffinches. In France they often fly together, in immense numbers, and six hundred dozen have been taken in one night. They make their nests on tall fir trees, with moss on the outside, lined with wool, and feathers; their eggs are four or five in number.

They feed on beech mast, and various seeds.

THE GOLDFINCH.

The bill is white, tipp'd with black; the base surrounded with rich scarlet feathers; the cheeks are white, the top of the head black; the back is brown. The quill feathers black, marked in the middle with a rich beautiful yellow; the

the tips of the quill feathers white. The tail black, but most of the feathers have a white spot near their end.

They inhabit Europe, and are found but in smaller numbers, in Asia, and Africa.

This beautiful bird, however, distinguished for the richness of its plumage, interests us as much from the agreeableness of its song, and the docility of its character.

Its flight is low, but generally regular, continued, and in one direction, not up and down, and by starts, like the Sparrow's.

The nest of the Goldfinch is very round, firm, and neatly executed, much resembling that of the Chaffinch; it is generally built on a fruit tree, on a slender branch; sometimes they build in bushes, and have generally two broods in a year. They are very careful of their young, and feed them with caterpillars, and insects. In a cage they are fed with hemp-seed, in a state of liberty they eat many kinds of grain, and are particularly fond of the seeds of thistles, and of turnips.

The Goldfinch may be made to breed with a female Canary bird; their offspring resembles the Goldfinch, with respect to the head, and wings, and is capable of producing; but not their descendants.

scendants. The Goldfinch is a very active bird, and in an aviary always endeavours to roost on the highest perch.

Their docility is very surprising; they have been taught to dance, to counterfeit death, to fire a little cannon, to move a small litter, to open a box in which their food is kept, and to draw up a little bucket of water out of a glass suspended at some distance below their cage.

Their song is pleasing; they begin to sing in the month of March, and continue all the summer. Bird-fanciers pretend that the Goldfinches in Kent, excel those of every other county.

They are subject in confinement to epileptic fits.

THE C A N A R Y-B I R D.

The beak is whitish, the body a yellow inclining to white. The wing and tail feathers are of a green cast.

It inhabits the Canary islands, feeding principally upon the seeds of the phalaris, or canary seed; in confinement it will eat hemp, flax, and rape seed; it breeds with the Goldfinch, and their young are fertile, but not in the second generation.

Of this very interesting bird there are many varieties; the natural consequence of its being domesticated,

domesticated, and bred in confinement. Some are grey, upon a ground of yellowish white, in others the plumage is of a brilliant yellow, in others again of a mealy colour. Some are distinguished by a crest, in others the eyes are red; amongst these a number of other combinations take place, so that near thirty varieties have been described.

Great numbers of these birds are imported every year from Germany, particularly from Tirol, and though the Germans who deal in them carry them a thousand miles upon their backs, yet they are sold as low as five shillings each. At Inspruck they are a little article of commerce, from that town they are sent to several parts of Europe, and in considerable numbers to Constantinople. They are bred very generally in England, for this purpose they should be provided with a cheerful chamber, furnished with boxes, or little bushes formed of twigs of birch, or heath, to build their nests in; and little nets filled with fine hay, moss, feathers, down, flax, and goat's hair, should be hung in different parts of the room; it is very proper to have fewer males than females, that the male birds may not disturb the females, which sometimes they are apt to do, and occasionally to break their eggs.

They

They should be fed at this time with turnip seed, oats, millet, and hemp-feed.—The day before the female is expected to hatch, she should be supplied with scalded food, and eggs boiled hard; but all green vegetables must be avoided, because they would weaken the young. Sometimes a little bread moistened with water will be a very proper food.

When they are separated from their young, they ought to be supplied with plantain, and lettuce seed, in small quantities.

In the management of Canary-birds, it is possible to do too much; we should never lose sight of nature; in their wild state they frequent streams, we should therefore let them have a constant supply of water, that they may occasionally bathe themselves.

There are several disorders to which they are subject; sometimes they die in consequence of eating to excess, sometimes in moulting: young Canary-birds are liable to a complaint in their intestines, which become inflamed, and distended: this is a common, and generally a fatal complaint, arising from too great a quantity of food, or from its being too moist. Some indispositions to which they are subject, proceed from want of neatness. The pip is another complaint; the bird
afflicted

afflicted with it is dull, the feathers are ruffled, and the body appears enlarged, the head drawn in, or concealed beneath the wing. When these symptoms appear, it is proper to examine if there be not a little pimple near the tail; this often breaks of itself; sometimes the bird presses it with its bill, and by breaking it, effects a cure.

Like many other birds in a domestic state, it is attacked by epileptic fits. Such are the unhappy effects of confinement.

The cares and attentions which we bestow on these pretty warblers, are amply repaid by their song. They are the domestic Nightingales, filling our houses with their delightful melody.

The Canary-bird has a very nice ear, a strong memory, and great powers of imitation; it may be taught the song of the Nightingale, or the Lark, or to pipe a tune like a Bullfinch.

Its manners, and character, are extremely interesting; it contributes to the amusement of the young, it enlivens solitude, and recalls to us in our chambers the pleasing impressions of the melody of the groves. The Canary-bird will live in confinement if properly attended to, from ten, to eighteen years.

A female grey Canary-bird that escaped from its cage, paired with a Common Sparrow, and produced

produced a brood in a bird-pot which was placed against a house.

Near Paddington, in Bedfordshire, some Canary birds have been seen in hedges, in a wild state; they had probably escaped from an aviary. The English Canary-birds have mostly the Wood-lark's song, those from Tirol that of the Nightingale.

THE SISKIN.

On the middle of the wing feathers is a band of an olive colour, the tail is a little forked, the two middle feathers inclining to black and edged with olive colour, the rest are yellow tipp'd with black, and edg'd with grey.

The throat is dusky in the male, in the female white.

The Siskin inhabits Europe, frequenting those parts that abound with juniper. It visits these islands at uncertain times, but generally in barley seed time; from whence it is called in Sussex the Barley bird. It is sold in the bird shops in London, under the name of the Aberdavine, but has no very pleasing song. The nests of this species are concealed with great art, for though there are many of the young birds in the woods, on the banks of the Danube, that seem but just able to fly, their nests are seldom to be found. Siskins run along on the

under part of the branches of trees, like the Tit-mouse species, with their backs downwards.

The Siskin will breed with the Canary-bird.

THE RED-HEADED LINNET.

The breast is tinged with a fine rose colour, it has a bar of white on the wings. The quill, and tail feathers, are black, edged with white.

They inhabit most parts of Europe, breed in the north of England, and are often seen in flocks on the sea-coast.

This Linnet easily pairs with the Canary; there are few birds more deserving our attention from the beauty of their plumage, the melody of their song, or the agreeableness of their character. A gentleman pair'd a male bird of this species, with a female Canary bird, which had been accustomed to be released every day from its cage, but to return regularly for its food, and to roost. She made her nest in a neighbouring bush, and brought her young ones with her to the window to feed. They had the mealy plumage of the Canary-bird, but the rose-coloured breast of the Linnet.

In a domestic state, this Linnet loses the beautiful colours of its head and breast; it is very capable of imitation, and there was one at Kensington who having been taken in the nest, and brought

brought up where there was a little child, learnt to articulate the words pretty boy, from having heard them frequently addressed to the infant by its nurse.

Linnets frequently build in vines, in gooseberry bushes, and nut-trees; the nest is composed of roots, leaves, and moss on the outside, and lined with wool; they breed in May, July, and August; about the latter end of that month, they collect together in companies, and live so during the winter. They fly very close to one another; rising, and alighting together, and perching upon the same trees. In the spring, they generally roost on oaks, or trees which are not despoiled of their withered leaves, often singing in concert; they feed on flax, which their name implies, on hempseed, thistles, and many other seeds; but in confinement hempseed is too nourishing a food; it fattens them to such a degree, as to prevent their singing, and to destroy their health.

The Linnet frequently shakes the dust amongst its feathers, and should be supplied in confinement with sand for that purpose, and water to bathe in. With a pipe, or bird organ, it may be taught to whistle tunes; it is very capable of attachment, and seems by its animation to shew its affection to those who supply it with food.

The LESSER RED-HEADED LINNET much resembles the last species.

It is gregarious, the nest has been found on an alder stump, near a brook, about two or three feet from the ground; it was constructed on the outside with dried stalks of grass, and other plants, intermixed with wool; the lining was hair, and feathers. The bird was sitting on four eggs, and so attached to her nest, as to suffer herself to be taken in the hand, when released she did not forsake it.

Their plumage is not so beautiful as that of the last species.

They inhabit most parts of Europe, but in some they are migratory; they appear in Germany in October, and leave it in February. Like the Titmouse, they run along the under parts of the branches of trees.

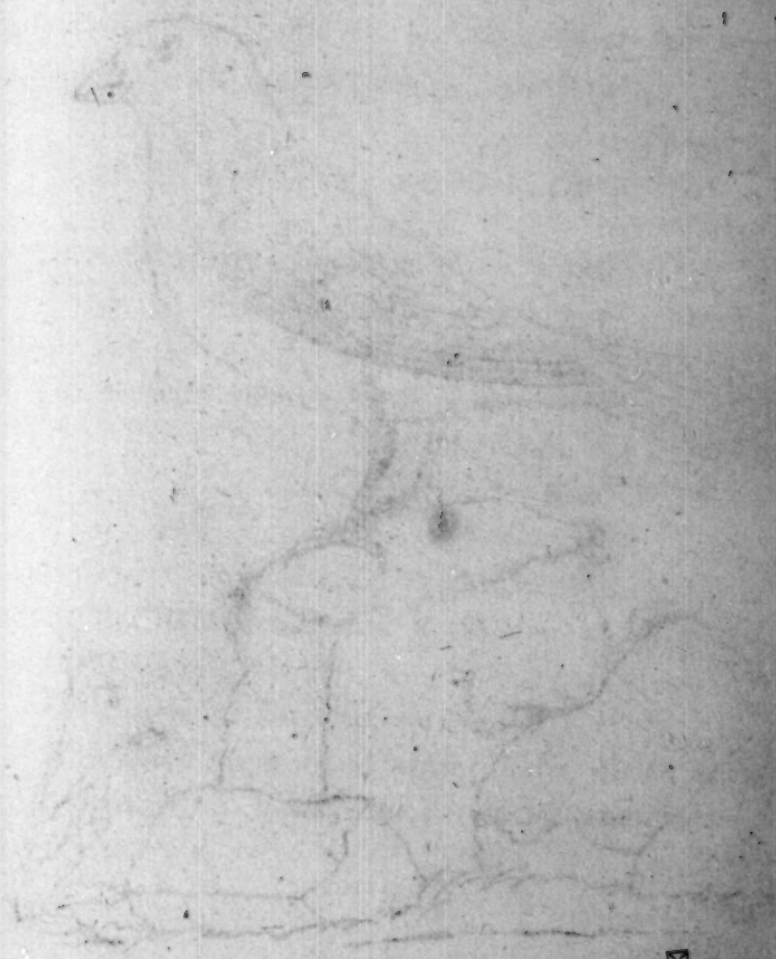
They become very fat, and are a delicate food.

THE RING SPARROW

Is grey, with white eye-brows, the throat clay colour'd.

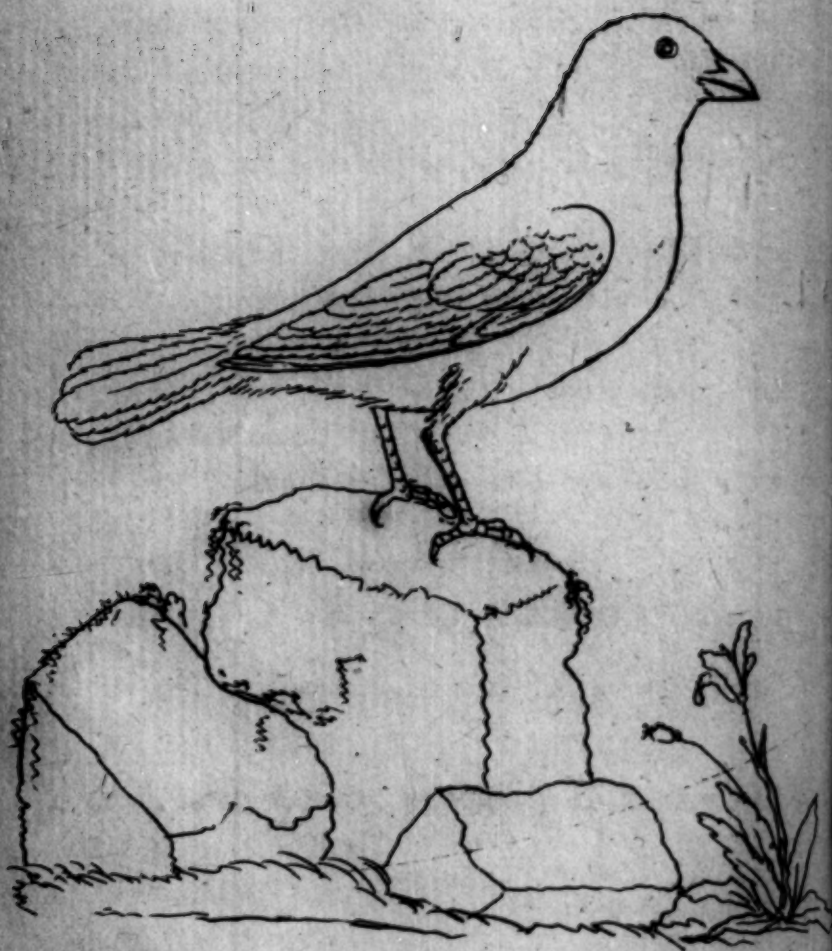
It inhabits Europe, principally Germany, and Italy.

It



B  L

ORDER 6th. *Passeres*
Genus 74 *Fringilla*.



COMMON SPARROW.

Published June 1. 1789 by J. Johnson S. Pauls Church Yard London.

It feeds on seeds, and insects; but seems a tender bird, being often found dead in severe winters, in the hollows of trees.

THE CUBA FINCH.

The plumage is of a purplish cast, across the breast it has a purplish chefnut colour'd band.

These birds inhabit the island of Cuba, and uniting in considerable flocks, are very destructive to rice plantations: indeed they are common to both the continents; and found in the East as well as the West Indies.

THE COMMON SPARROW.

The wing and tail feathers are dusky, the body is grey and black, the cheeks are white; under each eye is a black spot, and a band of white on the wings. The male is distinguished by the black on his throat.

The Common Sparrow is so well known, that a particular description of his colours would be unnecessary; though in this species there are some varieties, the effect perhaps of accident; for some have been found white, some varied with brown, and black, some black, and others yellow.

In Lorraine Black Sparrows are frequently found, but the colour perhaps may be only external, and the effect of smoke, since there are many glass-houses there, which they frequent, hence their feathers may be discoloured.

The Sparrow is never found in any places that are far from the habitations of men; they do not frequent woods, or large extended plains; but like rats, establish themselves about our houses, in order to subsist at our expence. They infest the corn in the Orknies by thousands, but were unknown in Siberia, until the Russians attracted them by the cultivation of corn.

As they are very indolent, and very greedy, it is upon the labours of others that they wish to subsist; they frequent our barns, our corn ricks, our poultry yards, and dove houses; they follow the labourer when he sows, the mowers during the harvest, the threshers in the barn, and observe the poultry when they are fed. They even pierce the crops of young Pigeons to take out the grain, and prey upon bees, an insect peculiarly useful to us. Of all birds they are the most mischievous, and yet of all the most difficult to destroy, or to remove. Nothing will dislodge them from the places they frequent. They are cunning, timid, difficult to be deceived; they easily detect
traps,

traps, and give great trouble to those who attempt to catch them, and even then almost every effort is in vain, for they breed three times a year, and if you destroy their nest, in two days they will make another; if you break their eggs, in ten days, they will lay again; if you shoot at them when they are upon the roof of the house, they only conceal themselves the better in your barns.

Those who have kept Sparrows in cages, say that a pair will consume near twenty pounds weight of corn, in a year; we may judge from hence how destructive they must be. It is true they feed their young very much on insects, and that they themselves destroy many insects, yet grain seems to be their favourite food. On account of the mischief they do, a price is sometimes set upon their lives, in many villages; in some parts of Germany, every year, each peasant is obliged to produce the heads of a certain number of Sparrows.

Yet however mischievous they may seem, as Providence has made no animal whatever but to produce some good, we may be assured that the Sparrow answers some desirable purposes.

Mr. De Buffon attempted to destroy them by burning sulphur, mixed with some rosin and char-

coal under the trees where they roosted, but in vain; they only at first perched higher in the trees, and afterwards flew upon a roof at some distance.

Sparrows are easily tamed, and brought up in a cage, they may even be taught when young something of the song of other birds; though they are easily made familiar, yet they do not naturally associate together; they are generally alone, or in pairs, though they sometimes plunder in companies.

They generally build under the tiles, in the roofs of houses, in thatch, in holes of walls, under the eaves, in the corners of windows, and sometimes even in trees.

When they build in trees they make a little covering to their nest, to keep out the rain; some again too indolent to make nests of their own, build in the old nests of rooks, and drive the pigeons from their boxes. They often take possession of a Martin's nest. It is said that the Martin, sometimes resenting the injury, brings clay, to stop up the entrance, and so bury the Sparrow alive.

THE TREE SPARROW,

The quill and tail feathers are dusky, the body is grey and black, there are two white bands on their wings, and a large black spot near each ear.

It inhabits most parts of Europe, and is frequent in Lancashire, Lincolnshire, and Yorkshire.

It lives in the country, frequents highways, perches upon shrubs, and low bushes, and builds its nest on trees.

Tree Sparrows prefer an open country, they are less numerous than Sparrows, and probably do not breed so often; they assemble in flocks at the close of summer, and remain together during the winter.

This bird is almost always in motion; when he is perched he is continually moving, turning, raising, and dropping his tail.

It is much less mischievous than the Sparrow, not destroying much corn, but preferring fruit, and wild seeds. It perches on thistles, and eats their seeds, and often preys on insects. The song is nothing extraordinary. It lays about four or five eggs.

THE FRIZZLED SPARROW.

The plumage is of an olive colour. The under part of the body yellowish, its head is black and many of its feathers frizzled.

It is supposed to inhabit Angola, or Brazil.

There are many other species of the Genus *Fringilla*, but those mentioned are the most remarkable for their plumage, and their manners.

GENUS 75. MUSCICAPA.

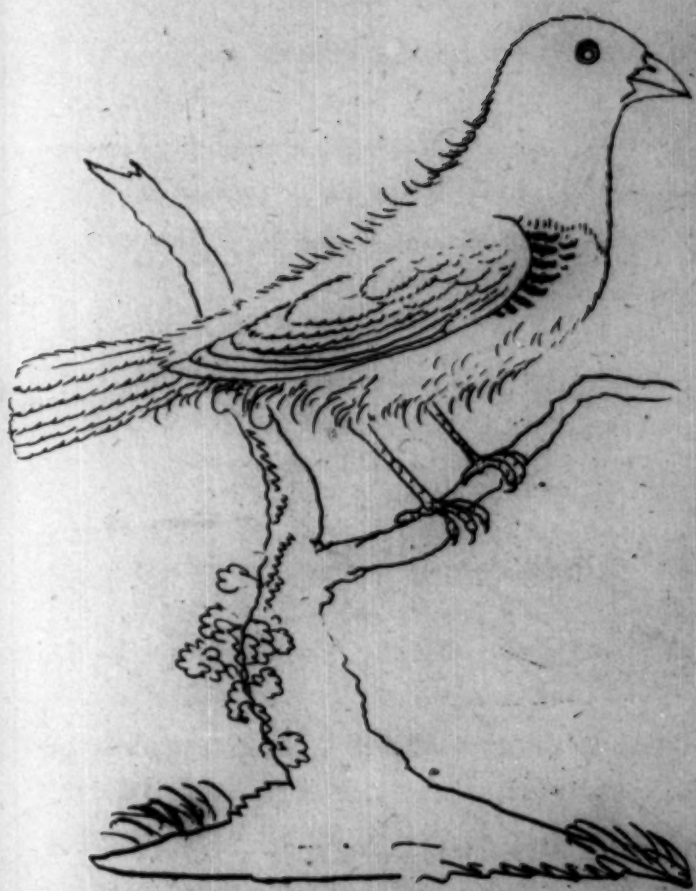
The bill of the Fly-Catcher Genus is flattened at the base, almost triangular, notched at the end of the upper mandible, which bends towards the point; and beset with bristles.

The nostrils roundish.

This is a Genus related a little to carnivorous birds, apparently more innocent, and perhaps quite as useful. They are in fact birds of prey, though they abstain from flesh, and are not injurious to fruit, or grain, living upon flies, and gnats, and other insects.

Some

ORDER 6th *Passeres*
Genus 74 *Fringilla*.



FRIZZLED SPARROW.

Published June 1. 1787 by J. Johnson S^t Pauls Church Yard London.

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ORDER 6th *Passeres*
Genus 75 *Muscicapa*.



AMERICAN REDSTART or FLY CATCHER

Published June 1st 1787 by Jos. Johnson St Pauls Church Yard London.

Some of them approach in size to the Butcher bird, others are smaller than the Nightingale.

There is no melody in their notes, their character is savage, and solitary. They are seldom on the ground, as their subsistence is in the air, they are mostly seen upon trees, which they have little inducement to quit.

In cold countries there are but few species; as their food consists of insects, it is natural to suppose that they should exist in the greatest numbers in warm climates; in Europe the species are few, more numerous in Asia, and in America, they are considerably multiplied.

THE PARADISE FLY-CATCHER.

The head and crest are black, the body white, the tail long and wedge form like the tail of a pheasant, the middle feathers are very long.

It is found at Senegal, the Cape of Good Hope, and at Madagascar. It frequents the mangrove trees on the solitary parts of the banks of the rivers Senegal, and Gambia, feeding upon insects.

THE FORK-TAILED FLY-CATCHER,

Has a long forked tail, the plumage of its back black, beneath white.

It inhabits Canada, and Surinam, and is about the size of the crested Lark; it is seen continually flying down from trees in the neighbourhood of plains that are covered with water, alighting upon the little hillocks, or the plants that swim on the surface, and flirting its tail continually, like the Water Wagtail.

THE CRESTED FLY-CATCHER.

The neck is blue, beneath yellow, the back greenish, the wing and tail feathers a reddish brown.

It breeds in Carolina, and Virginia, retiring in winter to a warmer climate; its cry is very disagreeable; it associates with no other bird, and seems of a savage, and sullen character.

Its nest is made of snakes skins, and hair, in holes of trees.

THE RED-EYED FLY-CATCHER.

The plumage is olive colour, more light coloured beneath. The eyebrows are white, and the eyes red.

It inhabits Carolina, but migrates into Jamaica at the approach of winter, where from its singular note it is called Whip Tom Kelly. It generally builds in apple trees, suspending its nest from between the fork of some bough, amongst the leaves. The nest is pendulous, and curiously formed of cotton and wool, lined with hair, and dead grass, and ingeniously bound to the branches by a moss-like thread, twisted round them, and about the outside of the nest.

THE CAT FLY-CATCHER.

Its plumage is dusky above, ash coloured beneath, the head black, the under part of the tail dirty red.

This bird inhabits New-York and Carolina; frequenting bushes and thickets; its note resembles the mewling of a kitten, from this it takes its name. It has great courage, and will assail a crow, or almost any bird, however larger than itself.

Insects are its favourite food. The outside of its nest is made with leaves, and matting rushes, the inside with fibres of roots.

THE

THE SPOTTED FLY-CATCHER.

The plumage on the back is of a mouse colour; beneath whiteish; the neck is streaked; the feathers under the tail are of a reddish cast.

This bird is migratory; it arrives in April, and leaves us in September; it frequents woods, seeking solitary, and sheltered scenes, though sometimes it infests our orchards, and is very destructive to cherries; on this account in Kent, it is known by the name of the Cherry Sucker.

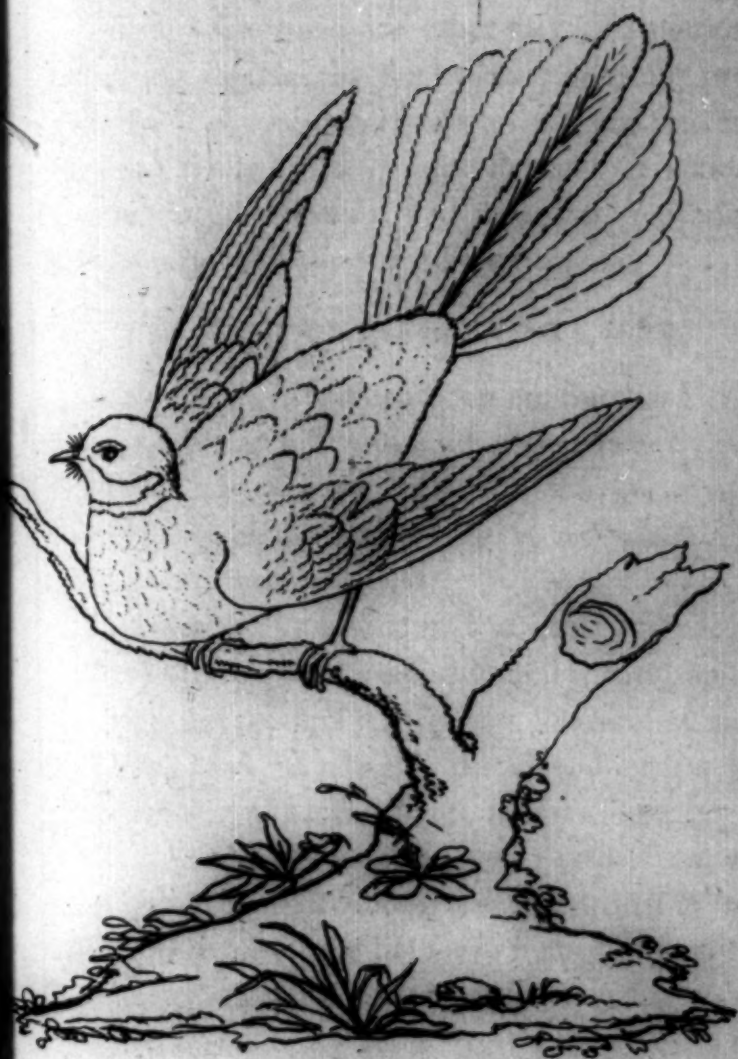
It seems a melancholy, and rather a stupid bird; building its nest without any appearance of concealment, against trees, or upon bushes. Their nests are clumsily made, and not always with the same materials, sometimes with moss only, and sometimes with wool, and large fibres of roots intermixed.

They chiefly feed on insects, and collect them on the wing. They seldom alight upon the ground, or use their legs in running; but perched upon a branch, or post, watch the insects as they are flying near, spring after them, and again return to their place.

THE FAN-TAIL FLY-CATCHER,

Inhabits New Zealand; it is a very familiar bird, and is easily tamed; it will then sit upon
any

ORDER 6th *Passeres*.
Genus 75 *Muscicapa*.



FANTAIL FLY CATCHER.

Published June 2^d 1787 by J. J. Johnson St. Pauls Church Yard London.

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any person's shoulder, and pick off the flies as they alight, or pursue them as they are passing by, spreading its tail as it flies, like a fan.

THE PURPLE THROATED FLY-CATCHER,

Inhabits Cayenne, and other parts of America; collecting together in flocks, they generally precede the Toucan; they feed on fruit, and insects; they are lively birds, in almost constant action, frequenting the woods, and frequently repeating a sharp cry, like the word Pihauhau.

THE TYRANT FLY-CATCHER,

Is classed by Linnæus among the Butcher birds. It has a black bill and head, the crown divided lengthways by a stripe of scarlet, orange, or yellow; the back is ash colour, the tail black tipped with white.

The Tyrant builds its nest of moss and roots, without concealment, on shrubs and bushes, sometimes on the sassafras; it appears in Carolina and Virginia, in April; breeds there, and retires at the beginning of winter. Its courage is surprising; it attacks, and chases away every bird of whatever size, that approaches the spot which it inhabits. None escape his fury, none attempt resistance, when he assails them on the wing; for
it

it is only whilst they are flying, that he makes his attack.

Mr. Catesby saw one fix itself on an Eagle, and persecute him so, that the Eagle turned upon his back, and put himself into a variety of postures as he flew, but in vain; at length he alighted upon a tree, and kept perched there until the little tyrant left him through fatigue.

Whilst the female sits, the male perches upon a bush, or shrub, near the nest, and chases away any little bird that approaches; but if a large bird, an Eagle, Hawk, or Crow, come within a quarter of a mile, immediately he makes his assault, and drives it to a distance. When his young are flown, his impetuosity ceases, and he becomes as peaceable as other birds.

THE CHATTERING FLY-CATCHER,

Inhabits the interior parts of Carolina, two or three hundred miles from the sea; it lives by the banks of great rivers, and screams so loud that the noise is reverberated from rock to rock. It is so shy, that the fowler with difficulty can approach it; it flies with its legs hanging down, and often rises perpendicularly, and alights by jerks.

There

There are many other species, but little distinguished by their habits, from these mentioned, or remarkable for their plumage.

These birds, as well as Swallows, Nightingales, &c. which feed on insects, are of essential service to man.

Without their assistance, we should be assailed by myriads of insects; we should be tormented by their bites and stings; they would devour the produce of our lands, defile our provisions, which in vain we should endeavour to preserve; they would infest our chambers, and disturb our rest; for so rapid is their multiplication, that our attempts to destroy them, could scarcely be successful. To this useful tribe of birds, we are indebted for our deliverance; by their means insects are kept in such a degree of subjection, as only to consume that which is superfluous, and which without their help would become offensive.

The advantages we have derived from our little deliverers during the summer, we feel in autumn; towards the close of that season, they leave us to fly to milder climates, in pursuit of the insect food, which they seem to have a pre-sentiment is soon to fail them here.

During the interval between their departure, and the first frosts, insects increase in abundance, myriads of gnats infest the air, and their rapid multipli-

THE NATURAL HISTORY

multiplication would be severely felt, did not the friendly frosts of winter, deliver us again from their devastation.

GENUS 75. MOTACILLA.

Pennant has divided the Genus Motacilla, (and with reason,) into two Genera; the one he calls the Wagtail, the other the Warbler. We shall observe his example, so far, as to arrange this Genus under two divisions.

DIVISION THE FIRST. THE WAGTAIL.

The birds of this division have a weak slender bill, slightly notched at the tip.

The tongue is jagged at the end.

The legs are slender.

Their tails are long, and frequently in motion.

They frequent the sides of brooks, and are almost constantly running; they seldom fly; but when they do fly to any distance, it is in an undulatory, or wavy direction; they rarely perch, their nests are on the ground, and they make a twittering noise as they fly.

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ORDER 6th *Passeres*.

Genus 76 *Motacilla*.



WATER WAGTAIL.

Published June 2^d 1787 by J. Johnson S. Pauls Church Yard London.

THE WHITE WAGTAIL.

The bill, head, neck, chin and breast are black. The forehead, cheeks, and sides of the neck are white, the two outer tail feathers obliquely marked with white.

It inhabits Europe, is migratory, appears early in the spring, frequenting villages, and constantly flirting its tail.

The Swedish farmers say, when you see the Wagtail return, you may put your sheep into the fields; when you see the wheat-ear, you may sow your grain. So useful is the information we may acquire, by observing the animal creation. In England the Wagtail continues all the year, but in the winter it moves from the North to the South.

The Wagtail is a very small bird, but his long tail makes him appear much larger than he really is. As he flies he spreads his tail, which is a considerable support, and enables him to turn, to gambol, to rise and fall in the air.

Wagtails run lightly along the ground, moving very nimbly, close to the edge of the water; and sometimes they just step into the little wave, formed by the water as it spreads on the shore; but they most frequently flutter upon the dams of mill pools, or frequent the sides of shallow streams, hopping

hopping from stone to stone; approaching familiarly the women who may be employed there in washing, sporting around them, and picking up the crumbs which they may let fall.

They make their nests upon the ground, under roots; or more frequently by the water side, near piles, that have been driven down to keep up the banks.

The nest is composed of dry grass, small roots intermixed with moss, negligently made, and lined either with feathers, or horse-hair. The female lays four or five white eggs, spotted with brown; and has seldom more than one brood in a year. Upon the approach of danger, both male and female flutter before the enemy, as though they intended to mislead; but if their young should be taken, they follow the spoiler, flying above his head, in circles, and calling to their young in the most melancholy tones.

When their young are hatched, they attend them with the greatest care.

They keep the nest perfectly neat, removing every thing that would be dirty, and disagreeable: a gentleman placed some little pieces of white paper near their nests, which they carried away to a distance, as though it were displeasing to them.

When

When the young are able to fly, their parents still attend them for three weeks or a month, feeding them plentifully with insects, and ants eggs. They seem always to eat in great haste, scarcely giving themselves time to swallow the worms, flies, and gnats, which they catch. They are constantly rising, and wheeling in the air, to take insects; when they fly it is by jerks, up and down; whilst they are flying we often hear their note, but more frequently perhaps just as they have narrowly escaped a bird of prey.

They are not much afraid of man, and even after they have been shot at, they fly but a little way, and return again; they may like the lark be taken by a net, and looking glass.

In France they are migratory birds. In autumn they assemble together among willows, by the sides of the water, or on the roofs of mills, or other situations near the water; they are then remarkably sprightly and sportive, twittering to, and pursuing one another; at length by common consent, they all fly away together, to warmer climates; and in the winter it is said they are found in Egypt, and at Senegal, which are both in Africa.

They constantly attend the plough, to pick up the worms.

At

At Barr in Staffordshire, a Water Wagtail that frequented a house, by being occasionally fed with crumbs and pieces of meat cut very small, grew tame, and continued there the whole of the winter, for several years ; he frequently flew upon the window cills to search for dead flies, which sometimes fell from the joints and crevices upon opening the window.

THE YELLOW WAGTAIL,

The breast and stomach are yellow, the two outer tail feathers obliquely streaked with white, the throat is spotted with black in the male, the crown and upper part of the body are of an olive green.

In the winter, the yellow Wagtail, when the common Wagtail is gone, approaches villages, and seeks its food by streams of water, that are not frozen, and shelters itself under the banks of rivulets : In that dreary season, if the cold be not extreme, its gentle warbling is heard ; it is in a low key like the autumnal song of the common Wagtail, and very different from the shrill note which it utters when it rises on its wings. In the spring the yellow Wagtail makes its nest in meadows, and sometimes in copses, at the root of a tree, near a rivulet, and in cornfields. The nest is placed upon the ground, and built with dry grass, or moss,

and stems of plants and fibrous roots on the outside, lined with feathers, or horsehair within; and more neatly constructed than that of the white Wagtail. They lay seven or eight eggs, of a dirty white, spotted with yellow. After the hay harvest, the parent leads them amongst flocks of sheep. Then they live on flies, and gnats. Whilst they frequent the water side, they feed on worms; sometimes they swallow seeds, and even beetles have been found in their stomach.

The tail of this bird is longer than its body; and like the white Wagtail it frequents rivulets with pebbly beds, perching upon the stones; though some stay all winter, yet many seem to migrate, for they are not seen in such numbers then, as in the autumn amongst flocks of sheep.

It migrates in the north of England, but continues in Hampshire all the year.

This last species is called in France *La Bergeronette*, from their habit of frequenting flocks of sheep; they follow them in the fields, mix with them as they graze, and perch occasionally on their backs. They seem fearless of, and familiar with the shepherd, flying before him, and in some countries act the part of a sentinel, by apprising him of the approach of the wolf or of birds of prey.

Yet

Yet though fearless of man, they are incapable of confinement in a cage: deprived of liberty they pine, and die. Sometimes they have been known to fly on board a ship at sea, to familiarise themselves with the sailors, and only quit the ship when it reached its port.

SECOND DIVISION OF THE MOTACILLA, OR THE WARBLER,

Their bills are slender and weak.

The nostrils small, and sunk.

The outer toe united beneath the last joint, to the middle toe.

The Warblers are very different from the Wagtails, and very properly placed under a different division.

For the most part they perch on trees; proceed by leaps, and not by running, seldom twittering as they fly.

They are very numerous, and inhabit the warmer regions, where insects abound; insects being their principal food.

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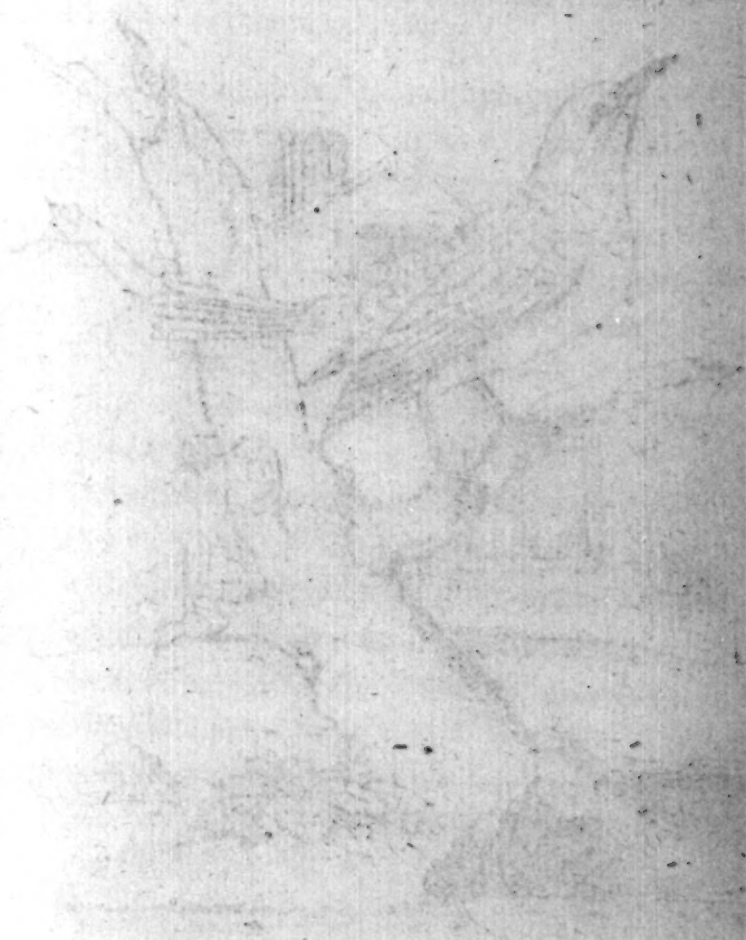
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ORDER 6th Passeres.

Genus 76. Motacilla.



NIGHTINGALE.

Published June 1st 1787 by Lee Johnson, St Pauls Church Yard London.

THE NIGHTINGALE,

Its plumage is of a reddish ash colour, with bands of ash colour on the legs. It inhabits those parts of Europe that are shaded with woods, singing in the evenings of the spring, with amazing powers, for so small a body; and falling sometimes a victim to emulation, in song.

The Nightingale is a bird not very generally dispersed; there are none in Africa, and in several parts of Europe, and even of England, they never appear. Some writers assert, that there are none in Devonshire, or Cornwall, or to the north of the Trent, except near Doncaster in Yorkshire, nor in some parts of Holland, Ireland, Scotland, or the northern parts of Wales; though they visit Sweden.

In England, France, Italy, Germany, and Greece, they are only birds of passage; it is supposed they retire into Asia, as they are found there in Persia, China, and even in Japan, where they are much esteemed for their singing, and sold for a considerable price.

Indeed they are every where migratory birds; and this disposition seems so implanted in them, that those who are confined in cages, are very much agitated, and restless, at the usual periods of their migrations. This instinct seems to act

in them, at least independent of cold, or want of nourishment, since in a cage, the temperature must be always nearly the same, and their food generally in equal abundance.

The Nightingale is not originally an American bird; there are some in the northern parts, these may have migrated from the north eastern parts of Asia, where a very narrow sea divides the Continents. The song of the Nightingale in Canada, is said to be much inferior to the song of the Nightingale in Asia, or Europe, and their song in Scotland, to their song in Italy; indeed a scarcity of food, and a cold climate, materially affect the singing of birds.

As the male Nightingale passes much of the night in singing, it has been supposed that they never sleep in the summer season; and with equal folly, that the heart and the eyes of a nightingale placed under a pillow, would prevent the person from sleeping who lay upon it: it is right to mention these follies, in order to expose and contradict them. Attentive observers find that in the summer season, Nightingales sleep occasionally in the day, and in confinement they have been observed to dream, and to warble in their sleep in a low voice.

When

When in a cage they bathe themselves after they have sung; they have been observed to do this immediately as candles were lighted. It may be well to mention another effect of light upon them; a Nightingale who sung very well having escaped from his cage, instantly flew into the fire, and was burnt.

Nightingales, at least the males, have a habit of raising, and sinking their bodies alternately, ballancing themselves on their perches, and both males and females raise and let fall their tails.

Nightingales conceal themselves in the thickest bushes, they frequent hedges, and low coppices, they feed on aquatic and other insects, on worms, on the eggs or larva of ants, some fruits and berries. They are not suspicious, but so much the contrary, that they are taken in a variety of ways: they may be attracted by the song of birds, by a fine voice, and even by disagreeable noises, for they seem foolishly inquisitive; they wonder at every thing that is new, and are often the dupes of their curiosity; they are taken with birdlime, with traps, snares of various kinds, and springes. Sometimes they abound in particular places. Once in a dry season, in the neighbourhood of the Forest of Ardennes, which is in the Netherlands, the shepherd's boys have

each caught near twenty in a morning : they resorted to those parts of the forest where the water was not dried up.

Those who take them are very careful not to injure their feathers, lest it should delay their song ; for whilst they are moulting, they are always silent. Sometimes to hasten the time of their singing, the feathers are taken out of their tail, that the new ones may grow again the sooner.

Nightingales are said to be very nice food, when they are fat.

In Gascony they are sometimes fattened for the table ; so wanton a destruction of a bird whose song is so melodious, recalls the depraved, the cruel, and extravagant fancy of Heliogabulus, a Roman Emperor, who feasted on the tongues of Flamingoes, Peacocks, and Nightingales.

The plumage of the Nightingale is not beautiful, the upper part of the body is of a reddish brown ; the throat, breast, and stomach of a whitish grey. Nightingales that are bred in the southern countries, have a darker plumage ; and those bred in northern countries a lighter plumage.

The tongue of the Nightingale is very remarkable, the end is furnished with threads, and seems as though it had been cut off.

But the Nightingale's song gives it a superiority over every other bird ; the force, and the melody of its powers, are equally astonishing. So small a bird that does not weigh more than half an ounce, can fill the compass of a mile with its song.

In the fine nights in the spring, when the weather is serene, and all nature seems as it were hushed in silence, this inimitable songster fills the grove with a melody, which seems to unite the excellencies of all other singing birds, and in effect far exceeds them : he begins with a slow and gentle warbling, at first low, and half pronounced, as though he were trying his powers ; by degrees his notes rise, he becomes more and more animated, and loud, and displays such a combination of melody and powers, his notes are so various, so voluble, so soft, his tones sometimes so plaintive, gently dying away, at others so full, so animated, and expressive, and the whole so varied, and wonderfully combined, that it is impossible to conceive sound more melodious, or more interesting. The pauses in his song produce a wonderful effect, they give us time to enjoy those sounds whose impressions are still left upon the ear ; we soon wish the song to be repeated ; and soon we hear another combination of

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melody,

melody, are varied, and though different, as pleasing as the former.

One reason perhaps that the song of the Nightingale produces so wonderful an effect, may be, that it sings in the night, when its warbling is uninterrupted by other sounds.

Nightingales begin to sing early in April, and seldom sing after June; their song is suspended by the attentions they are obliged to give to their young.

In confinement the Nightingale sings nine months in a year; and the song is still more perfect than that of Nightingales in their natural state. They will sometimes sing in a few hours after they are taken, generally in seven or eight days; not that they are regardless of the loss of their liberty, for at first they are sullen, and refuse to eat, and would die of hunger if food were not put into their beaks, or kill themselves by striking against the wires of their cage, if their wings were not tied. Soon, however, they become more tamed, they delight in singing, are charmed with musical instruments, and a fine voice. Their emulation is raised by other birds; and it is said that by their exertions they have fallen down dead in their contests.

All Nightingales do not sing equal y well, there are many that connoisseurs will not keep; they imagine too that the Nightingales in some countries, and even in some provinces, sing better than in others.

In England a Nightingale from Surry, is supposed to be superior to a Nightingale of Middlesex, which is the next county.

Indeed it is asserted, that there is as great a difference in the song of birds of different countries, as in different dialects.

It is possible that a Nightingale may have improved his song, by hearing other birds; in that case he will teach his song to his young; for every Nightingale is music master to his little ones; and such accidents, in many generations, may produce considerable effects.

Female Nightingales have been known to sing, but their song is inferior to that of the male.

An attempt has been made to write the notes of a Nightingale, and afterwards to play them on an instrument, but without effect. Their song has been much better imitated by the human organs. Some time since, a man in London succeeded in his imitation so well, as to make Nightingales perch upon him, and suffer themselves to be taken by his hand.

- In some instances these imitations seemed to require great effort.

The Nightingale is frequently caught, and tamed, for the sake of his song: but great attentions are requisite to succeed; his cage should be painted green, and shaded with boughs; moss should be placed under his feet, and he should be plentifully fed with a kind of food that he likes; in short he must almost be deceived with respect to his confinement: in this case the tame Nightingale will sing almost constantly, except during the moulting season, and his song will be superior to that of the wild Nightingale, for he will embellish it with the excellencies of the songs of other birds. They may be taught, to sing in parts, and perhaps even to speak, but many of these accounts are much exaggerated; such for instance is the story that is told of some canary birds belonging to the sons of the Emperor Claudius, which it is said spoke Greek and Latin, and every day learnt new phrases, and some not very short, to amuse their masters.

There is a very wonderful story of two Nightingales mentioned by Gessner, which it is much more amusing to read, than easy to believe; he quotes a letter, written as he professed to suppose, by a gentleman of veracity; which relates

that

that one night as the gentleman lay awake at an inn in Ratisbon, he heard two Nightingales in cages, conversing together about the politics of Europe, that they repeated the conversation at night which they heard in the day, and kept up a long and interesting dialogue, on a variety of subjects.

Nightingales in time, attach themselves to those who have the care of them; one that was given to a gentleman, no longer seeing the lady that was used to feed it, grew sullen, refused to eat, and was soon reduced to that state of weakness, that he could no longer support himself on his perch; but having been restored to his former mistress, his animation revived, he eat, drank, returned to his perch, and was well in twenty-four hours.

They have been known to refuse the liberty that has been offered them, and when they have been turned out of their cage, in the woods, they have returned again.

When once they are attached, they distinguish the step of the persons used to feed them, flutter at their approach, and even when moulting make some attempts to sing, and supply that defect by every expression of joy.

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In confinement when young, they are fed with a composition of sheep's heart, crumb of bread, hempseed, and parsley, perfectly mixed together, and chopped very small; it must be made fresh every day; afterwards egg boiled hard, and mixed with crumb of bread, and parsley, the whole minced small.

Another composition which should be their general food, when they are full grown, is made of two pounds of lean beef, half a pound of grey peas, half a pound of yellow or purled millet, some white poppy seed, and sweet almonds; a pound of honey, two ounces of flower, twelve yolks of eggs, two or three ounces of butter, and a dram and a half of saffron, the whole dried by a fire, reduced into a fine powder, and passed through a sieve; this will keep a long time.

With these compositions, a Nightingale has been kept seventeen years in a cage; at seven years of age he began to grow grey, at fifteen, his wing and tail feathers were white; his knees were much enlarged; he had knots on his toes like gouty persons, and it was necessary occasionally to file the point of his upper mandible; but he seemed to feel no other inconveniences from old age; he was always cheerful, and caressing.

It is said, that warm drugs, and perfumes, excite the Nightingale to sing; that meat, and garden worms are good for them, when they are too fat; and figs when they are too lean; that spiders are physic to them, and very proper in April, and that half a dozen are a dose. When they have fed on any thing that disagrees with them, they bring it up like birds of prey, in little round balls.

Nightingales are solitary birds, they not do migrate in flocks, but arrive singly in England, in April, or May, and return in that manner about August or September.

They pair soon after their arrival, and then they suffer no other of their species within a certain distance; and it is supposed that this distance is determined by the greater, or less plenty of food, and that where their proper food abounds, their nests are nearer each other.

They begin to build their nest about the beginning of May; it is composed of leaves, rushes, blades of grass, very coarse on the outside, with small roots, fibres, horse-hair, and a kind of down in the inside; it is generally exposed towards the east, and built on the lower branches of shrubs, such as gooseberry trees, white thorn, sloes, &c. or on a tuft of grass, and sometimes on the ground, so that the Nightingale herself, and the

young sometimes, become the prey of dogs, foxes, weasels, polecats, and snakes.

The female lays five eggs, sits very close, and only leaves her nest in the evening, when pressed by hunger; whilst she is absent, the cock seems to watch the nest. In eighteen or twenty days the young are hatched. The number of males is said to exceed the number of females, so much, that if by accident the cock should be killed, the female would soon be supplied with another, so that the young birds would not suffer.

The female, like the female Canary Bird, feeds her young with food that she brings up out of her own stomach; the father assists in the care of the young, and then it is that he seldom sings: probably that he may not discover the nest; though if it should be approached, he does not practice any of that artifice which some other birds employ to mislead, but oftentimes betrays it by his fears, and his cries.

In fifteen days the young are fledged.

In August, the old and the young Nightingales leave the woods, and frequent bushes, hedges, and fields lately ploughed, perhaps in order to procure a greater plenty of worms, and insects.

If an attempt be made to rear young Nightingales, it will be best to take those of the first hatch,
and

and their best instructor will be an old Nightingale.

THE HANG NEST.

Upper part of the body a dusky green, beneath dusky orange, a black line above and beneath the eye.

It inhabits America, and makes a curious pendulous nest.

THE HEDGE SPARROW.

Above a dusky grey, the coverts of the wings white at the points: The breast a blueish ash colour, or slate colour.

It inhabits Europe, not farther north than Sweden; lays four or five pale blue eggs.

In England the Hedge Sparrow is very common all the year, in France it is a bird of passage; it comes in autumn, and leaves that country in the spring. They travel in companies, and alight in hedges, flying from bush to bush. The nest is built very low in garden hedges, or some small bush, or sometimes upon the ground; it is composed of moss on the outside, of wool, and horse-hair within; it lays five eggs of a light blue colour, and without spots. If a cat or any other animal should approach its young, like the Partridge,

tridge, or Lapwing, in order to mislead, it would flutter just before its enemy, counterfeiting lameness, till it had drawn it to a considerable distance from the nest.

During the breeding season it has a remarkable flirt with its wings.

The Hedge Sparrow in the severity of winter, approaches barns, and threshing floors, in order to pick up corn, but this is not its natural food, it feeds on chrisalis's, plant lice, and other insects.

The Hedge Sparrow is not suspicious, and may be caught in almost any trap, he may easily be tamed, and by some is valued for his song, though it is not any thing extraordinary, it is plaintive, and he sings often at a season of the year when other birds are silent. It is generally towards the evening that they sing the most; they begin with the first frost, and continue till a little time in the spring.

A gentleman in France put a Hedge Sparrow into an aviary, with Canary Birds, Linnets, and Goldfinches; a Canary Bird seemed to take an affection to it, and never quitted it; they were taken out, and put into a cage together, but made no nest.

THE REED WARBLER'S

Plumage is a reddish brown, beneath of a light reddish colour, the head spotted.

It inhabits Europe, and the bog rushes in Sweden.

It is the size of a Wren, very lively, quick, and gay; it has a song, which though but little varied, still is not disagreeable, and may be improved. It sings in the winter; in the spring it returns to the woods, and builds a nest there of green moss, lining it with wool, and lays five eggs. The young ones are easily reared, and their little song, and sprightliness, is very interesting. A gentleman who had brought up some in an aviary, gave all his birds their liberty in the spring; these were the last that left it; they were afterwards frequently attacked by wild birds of their species: when thus persecuted, they flew to the window cills, as it were for protection, and there defended themselves, ruffling their feathers, and fighting the wild ones like game cocks.

THE KRUKA WARBLER

Is dusky above, whitish beneath; tail-feathers dusky; each outer one striped with white on the outer web.

It inhabits Sweden, and all parts of Russia, but not Siberia; and sings in the night.

This

This bird is heard almost incessantly in the spring; it is often seen to rise straight above the hedge, whirl round in the air, and descend, singing always the same lively little song, which it continually repeats, so that it has been called the prater.

One sees it constantly flirting, restless, entering into the bushes, hopping about them, without ever perceiving it still for one moment. It makes its nest in hedges by the road sides, in places the most concealed, near the ground, and even in tufts of grass which grow in the bottoms of bushes.

It feeds upon insects, especially those caterpillars that are found upon the leaves of shrubs, and bushes: as it frequents our gardens, groves, and the neighbourhood of houses, it is already in part familiarized, and may be easily tamed; is sometimes kept in a cage for the sprightliness of its song; it is necessary to let it have water to bathe itself, otherwise it would die in moulting.

P E T T Y C H A P S.

The plumage greenish ash colour, beneath yellowish; stomach inclining to white, or silvery; tail dusky; inside of the mouth red, eyebrows white.

Inhabits Europe as far north as Sweden.

This

This sprightly little bird appears early in the spring; as soon as the leaves begin to open, and the blossoms to appear, they disperse themselves through the country: some frequent our woods and groves, and others our gardens; they animate every country scene, by their sprightliness and gaiety. There is nothing pleasing in their plumage, which seems to be the case with most of those birds whose manners are sprightly, or whose song is melodious.

They frequent gardens, and fields that are sown with peas; they build their nests upon the risers that support these plants, and are continually going into and out of them; they are in constant action, sporting with, watching, and pursuing one another; their little quarrels seem without resentment, and are always ended by a song.

Notwithstanding their gaiety, they are far from inconstant; and the affection of the parents towards each other, seems to continue after the breeding season is over.

Whilst the female sits, nothing can be more attentive and assiduous than the male. The nest is composed of dry grass, filaments of hemp, and horse-hair. The female lays five eggs; she forsakes them if they are touched, and it is impossible to deceive her by putting others in their room,

room, she immediately discovers, and throws them out. Yet it is said, that in the nest of this bird the cuckow frequently lays its egg, and that she attentively fosters its young.

The Petty Chaps is of a timid disposition, flies away from birds as small as itself, and is very justly afraid of the Butcher Birds, its formidable enemy. The moment the danger is past, it seems entirely to forget it, and all its former gaiety returns.

It generally sings perched among the most tufted foliage of a tree; sometimes for a moment it shews itself on the outside of a bush, and instantly hides itself again amongst the leaves.

In the morning it bathes itself in the dew upon the leaves, or after slight showers in the summer.

As they feed principally on insects, they leave us in autumn, though there are some berries upon which they will feed.

S E D G E B I R D.

Plumage, ash colour, white beneath, with white eye-brows. Head brown with dusky streaks, tail brown, and circular when spread; toes fulvous and yellowish.

Inhabits Europe, is frequent in Russia, and Siberia, among the willow thickets, near the rivers.

This

This bird is sometimes called the willow Nightingale, because it sings in the warm and clear nights in the spring; it makes its nest among the reeds, in bushes, amongst marshes, or in the thickets that over-hang the water. The nest is composed of straw, dry grass, and lined with horse-hair, and constructed with great ingenuity: The female lays five eggs, of a dingy white, spotted with brown.

The little ones, before they are feathered, will throw themselves out of the nest if any body touches, or even comes very near them, though the nest be built immediately over the water.

This bird darts from among the reeds to pursue the dragon fly, on which it feeds, and it drives away all other little birds from its immediate neighbourhood.

It is an entertaining mock bird; it sits concealed in willows, or reeds, and imitates in a pleasing, but hurrying manner, the Swallow, Sky-Lark, and House-Sparrow. It seems to leave us before winter.

THE WHITE THROAT.

Plumage ash colour above, white beneath, the outer tail feather half white all the length, the second white at the tip.

A nest

A nest of the White Throats was found on a plum-tree about three feet from the ground, in the form of a cap, composed of moss, interwoven with bents of dry grass. Sometimes it is built entirely of grass coarser without, and finer within; White Throats lay five eggs of a greenish grey, with red and brown spots.

In countries where figs, and olives grow, it feeds on those fruits. It frequents our gardens in summer, and leaves us in winter. It is a shy, and wild bird, and sings with an erected crest.

THE EPICUREAN WARBLER.

The plumage rather dusky, white beneath; the breast spotted with ash colour. Inhabits Europe, but mostly the southern parts.

It migrates into the more northern parts later than other birds of this Genus, and leaves them sooner in the summer; they are found in Germany, and Poland, and as far north as Sweden; in autumn they return to Greece, and Italy; and in winter probably go to still more southern climates. Their manners, and food, seem to change with the climate: in the north they feed much on insects, in warmer countries chiefly on fruit during the season, as grapes and figs.

In

In southern countries they arrive in flocks, in temperate climates they are dispersed in the woods; their nests are so artfully concealed, that it is very difficult to find them; they perch high in trees, and warble very prettily. The plumage is not beautiful, but they are a most delicate food, and almost equal to the Ortolan. They fly by jerks; they walk, but do not hop, and run along the ground in France among the vines. They leave France about August, migrating in little companies of five or six. They are caught with nooses, by nets, and by means of a looking-glass.

They are taken in great numbers in Provence, and the islands in the Mediterranean. When Cyprus belonged to the Venetians, these birds were an article of commerce; 1200 jars filled with them, preserved with vinegar, and aromatic herbs, have been annually sent to Venice, and nothing can be more delicate when they are fattened upon grapes and figs.

THE WHEAT EAR.

The back grey, tinged red; the forehead white; a black band from the bill to the hind part of the head; the extreme of the body, and upper part of the tail white, the tail-feathers black at the tips.

The female has not the black band near the eye.

It

It Inhabits warm, and stony places in Europe ; making its appearance when the cold winter nights are past.

This species is found from the sultry climate of Bengal, to the dreary regions of Greenland ; it is migratory in the temperate and frigid zones. In Greenland it frequents rivulets, and feeds on worms among the graves ; for this reason it is abhorred by the natives. In Sweden the farmers consider it as the harbinger of spring, and that it points out to them the time they may with safety sow their corn.

Wheat Ears are very common in England ; they come in the spring from March to May ; the females arrive a fortnight before the males : They frequent commons, and warm downs, and the sides of hills, those especially that are fenced with stone walls, perching upon the little tufts of earth.

In ploughed grounds they follow the furrows to pick up worms, on which they feed ; when disturbed they do not rise high, but skim with a short, but rapid flight, near the surface of the ground ; and soon alight. In flying, the Wheat Ear discovers the white part of his tail, and the white feathers at the end of his body. He is often seen in barren, and in fallow ground, flying from
stone

stone to stone, seeming to avoid hedges and bushes, upon which he alights much less seldom than on stones.

The beak is fine at the point, but wider at the base, consequently well constructed for seizing, and devouring insects, on which they dart continually. They almost always keep on the ground, and if disturbed, perch only on low bushes. When they alight, they twitter, and flirt their tails. In ground lately ploughed, or near little tufts, or under stones in fallow land, or between the stones of which they make fences in some countries, they build their nest. It is curiously constructed of moss, or fine grass on the outside; of feathers and wool, rabbits down or fur, and horse-hair in the inside. It is remarkable for a kind of shelter placed above the nest, and fastened to the stone, or hillock, under which the nest is made. The female lays five or six eggs; and sits so close as sometimes to lose the feathers from her breast. The male attends her with great affection, bringing her flies, and ants, and always keeps near the nest. If he observes any persons approaching, he flies before them, alighting every now and then, as though to divert them from the nest; and when he judges them at a sufficient distance, he takes a compass, and returns

turns to his situation. Wheat Ears seem impatient of cold ; and if any severe frosts happen after their arrival, it is fatal to many. They prefer high, and dry situations. When they are fat, they are delicate food. They are taken in great numbers in hair nooses, by the shepherds about Eastbourn in Suffex. The shepherds cut out a turf, and lay it along by the side, and over the trench, made by the removal of the turf ; leaving only a little hollow, in which the noose is placed ; the Wheat Ear with a view to find worms and perhaps to hide itself, goes into the noose. The appearance of a bird of prey, or the shadow of a cloud, are sufficient to frighten him into this supposed shelter ; the number taken in that neighbourhood every year, amounts to 1840 dozen : the reason why they are so numerous there is because that situation abounds with a certain fly, which for the sake of the wild thyme frequents the adjacent hills. They migrate in August or September, and go in little flocks ; they are naturally solitary, for they disperse as soon as they arrive, the male and female only associating together. They feed on insects, and earth worms.

THE WHIN CHAT.

Plumage a rusty brown spotted with black, a white line over each eye, a broad patch of black beneath, and covering the temple in the male, of brown in the female; two white spots on the wing. The throat and breast yellowish, two middle feathers of the tail black, the rest white at the bottom, black at the tip.

It inhabits Europe as far north as Spitzbergen.

The Whin Chat seldom perches, but is mostly upon the ground, upon little hillocks, in fallow lands. The female lays four or five eggs, and builds her nest at the bottom of a bush, amongst the roots, or on the ground, where it is sheltered by a stone. This bird is of a wild nature, it arrives and departs with the Stone Chatter, and frequents mountainous situations; it feeds on flies and other insects, and when fat is as delicious food as the Ortolan.

THE STONE CHAT.

Plumage grey, red beneath, a white band under the throat, the spaces between the beak, and eyes, black.

This sprightly, active bird is scarcely ever quiet; almost continually hopping and fluttering from bush to bush, he only reposes for a few moments, and even then he seems spreading his wings, as though meditating another flight. He rises into the air by short and sudden efforts, and falls, turning round like a wheel.

The Stone Chat never flies very high, or perches upon trees, but generally alights upon the highest spray of a hedge, or a bush. He is easily taken with bird-lime, from his habit of preferring any single twig which projects beyond the rest. He frequents dry situations, high fields, or extensive commons: sometimes he perches on the ears of Indian wheat in the fields, or on the highest props in the vineyards.

This bird builds its nest on wastes, or commons, at the bottom of a bush, amongst the roots, or under the cover of a stone, or sometimes fixes it to the side of a rock, but so suspicious is the character of the Stone Chat, that it retires there in a most artful and cautious manner, as though afraid of being seen: it never goes immediately into the nest, but first flies into a bush at some distance; when it leaves its nest it walks a little way from it, and comes out of a neighbouring bush, so that if you see the bird enter hastily any little thicket, it is not there, but at some little distance, you must seek for its nest.

The female lays five or six eggs, both parents feed their young with insects, which they are bringing them almost perpetually. Their cares, and attentions, seem increased when their young are able to leave the nest, they are repeatedly call-

ing to, and still continue to feed them for several days.

In confinement, the character of this bird seems quite altered; he becomes dull and stupid, incapable of learning any thing; he is kept alive with great difficulty, and to no purpose.

A Stone Chat that had been taken shewed great reflexion; the cage in which it was confined was placed in a garden amongst shrubs, in broad day, and the door opened; it instantly flew upon the outside of its little prison, and there remained a minute before it attempted a second flight, distrusting as it were the appearance of liberty.

In their natural state they suffer you to approach near, flying only to a little distance, not seeming to suspect the fowler's intention.

There is a bird in Provence which lives very much upon ants, for which the Stone Chat has been mistaken; but the Ant-eater seems to be a solitary bird, frequenting only decayed houses and ruins. In cold weather, he places himself on the tops of chimnies for warmth; he frequently lies at the opening of an ant hill, stopping it with his body, so that the ants who attempt to get out are engaged in his plumage; he then flies away to a bare spot, and shaking his feathers, the ants fall out upon the ground, and become his prey. It is most pro-

bable that this bird is not a Stone Chat, but he may belong to another species of the *Motacilla*.

The Stone Chat, when fat, is delicious food, and nearly equal to the *Ortolan*.

THE BLACK CAP.

The crown of the head is black, hind part of the head pale ash colour; back and coverts of the wings greyish olive; breast and stomach light ash colour: crown of the female dull rust colour.

It is one of the smallest of this genus.

This bird has not the black crown until after the first moulting, before that time the young birds resemble young Fig Eaters; from whence it was once strongly imagined, that Fig Eaters were sometimes metamorphosed, or changed into Black Caps.

Its song is very pleasing, not unlike that of the Nightingale, and it is of much longer continuance; for, many weeks after that delightful warbler is silent, the song of the Black Cap still make the groves musical.

Their notes are easy, natural, and pleasing; not consisting of any great variety, yet they are agreeable, and seem expressive of the happiness and tranquility of the surrounding scene. The male has a thousand attentions for the female whilst

whilst she sits; indeed, he shares that care with her, and is continually bringing her flies, worms, and ants.

The nest is built near the ground, in a bush carefully concealed, and contains four or five eggs, of a greenish colour, with light brown spots. It has been found in a spruce fir, composed of goose grass, moss, and wool, lined with horse hair.

The young ones grow very fast, and when they are slightly fledged, they leap out of the nest, and abandon it, if any persons approach.

This bird arrives in the spring, and if after its arrival occasional frosts should make the insects disappear, it has still a resource in several kinds of berries.

The Black Cap may be tamed, and in confinement few birds can be more interesting; it shews the most engaging affection for its master; at his approach it flies against the wires of the cage to meet him, and by its gentle notes, and the fluttering of its wings, expresses gratitude and attachment.

The young birds who are brought up in confinement, if they have opportunities of hearing the Nightingale, acquire its song; but in September, which is the time of their migration, they

shew all those symptoms of uneasiness, which migratory birds generally feel at that season.

The Black Cap is found commonly in Italy and France, sometimes in England, and as far north as Sweden.

THE RED START.

The head and back are of a bluish grey; the cheeks and throat, black; the stomach and tail red, except the two middle tail feathers, which are brown.

The song of the Red Start has neither the compass or the variety of the Nightingale's, but it has an expression of tenderness and melancholy, which is exquisitely pleasing; for this reason, and this only, it is called in France, the Nightingale of the Wall, for it has neither the form, nor the habits of the Nightingale, nor its plumage.

The Red Start arrives in the spring, perching upon towers, upon the roofs of houses, and on chimnies, from whence is heard his soothing song. He always seeks the most inaccessible situations; he is found too in the shades of the gloomiest forests; he flies lightly, and when perched, has a little cry, which he repeats, moving his tail with a kind of tremulous motion, not up and down, but from one side to the other, like a dog when it fawns. This bird prefers mountainous countries.

They

They build their nests in holes of walls in towns, and in the hollows of trees in the country, or the fissures of rocks. The female lays four or five, or six blue eggs; the young are hatched in May. The male during the time of incubation sings from the point of a rock, or the top of some building near the nest; it is, especially, at the dawn of day, and early in the morning that he repeats his song.

The Red Start is a shy, suspicious, and sullen bird, apt to abandon its nest if it be observed, and it is said to forsake the eggs, and even the young if they are touched; if caught, it cannot be tamed, but obstinately refuses food, and dies.

These birds from the nest may be reared in confinement; they will sing delightfully in the day, and sometimes in the night, and improve their natural song if placed among better songsters than themselves. The tame Red Start is fed with crumbs of bread, and the same composition that is given to the Nightingale.

When unconfined they feed on flies, spiders, chrysalids, ants, berries, and tender fruits; in Italy on figs.

In their migrations they preserve their solitary character, they go alone, and are never seen in flocks.

THE GREY RED START.

The beak and quill feathers ash colour, the stomach and tail feathers rust colour, the two outer feathers ash colour.

The Grey Red Start is a migratory bird, it arrives in May, and immediately retires into the woods to pass the summer: it builds in little bushes near the ground; the nests are made with moss on the outside, and lined within with wool and feathers, resembling a globe, with an opening towards the east. According to Buffon the female lays five or six eggs; according to Pennant nine.

In the morning it comes out of the woods, returns there during the heat of the day, and in the evening appears again in the neighbouring fields, seeking for worms and flies; it retires to the woods at night to roost. The Grey Red Start has no song, only a little twittering note; in general he is very silent; he often perches upon a single twig, which grows out beyond the root, flirting his tail like the Red Start. When fat, he is delicious food: his flight is very short, only from bush to bush. These birds go away in October; they are seen some days before to follow one another along the hedges.

Some

Some grey Red Starts have a black band round their necks, and their plumage is more brilliant; these are supposed to be the males.

THE BLUE THROATED WARBLER.

The breast ferrugineous, with a blue band, the tail feathers dusky, ferrugineous towards the base.

This bird, except in colour, very much resembles the Robin Red-breast; it frequents the borders of woods, marshes, and moist meadows, willow beds, and reeds, and with the love of solitude that distinguishes the Red-breast during part of the year, it seems to have the same familiarity with man; for, after spending the summer in these retired situations, in the autumn, it frequents hedges, avenues, and gardens, and suffers you to approach near enough to beat it down with a farbacan; a farbacan is a hollow tube, or cane, through which peas, &c. are blown.

Seldom more than a pair of the Blue-throated Warblers are seen together. At the close of the summer they resort to corn fields, and sometimes make their nests there, but more generally upon willows, osiers, and plants, that grow in

marshy places ; their nests are composed of grass, and fixed to the forks of branches.

In the breeding season, the male rises straight in the air a little way, singing ; he turns round, and so alights again upon the branches with a great deal of sprightliness and gaiety. The Blue Throated Warbler sings in the night, and some think the song pleasing, by others it is little esteemed ; but it has been observed in several species of birds, that the song of those of the same species differs at different seasons of the year.

It loves to bathe itself, and keeps very much near water ; it feeds on worms and insects, and runs very nimbly, flirting its tail.

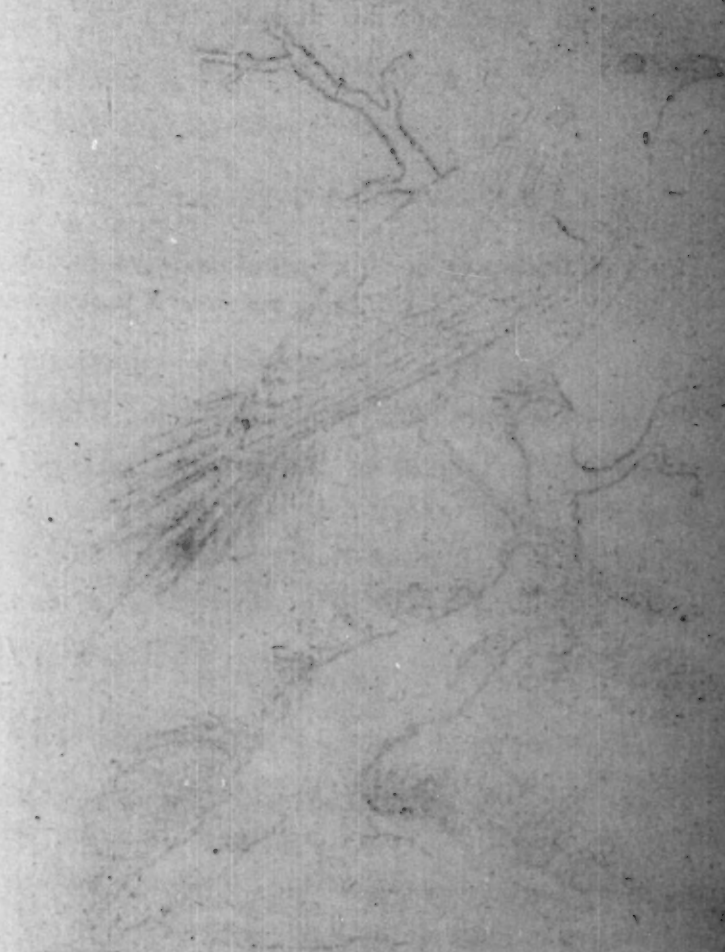
The fine colours of this bird lose their lustre when he is in a state of confinement.

This species is not very common ; it is found in the mountainous parts of Europe, in the Alps, the Pyrenean Mountains, and in Sweden.

THE BLUE RED-BREAST.

Blue above, red beneath, the stomach white, the quill feathers black at the point.

Its wings are very long, and its flight rapid ; it is of a gentle disposition, feeds on insects, and makes its nest in the hole of a tree.



ORDER 6^A. *Passeres.*
Genus 76 Motacilla.



THORN TAIL WARBLER.

Published June 1787 by J. S. Johnson S. Pauls Church Yard London.

The Blue Red-breast inhabits the Island of Bermuda and South America; it is harmless, and familiar.

It is in America what the Robin Red-breast is in England. The Blue Red-breasts frequent fields where maize and mulleins grow, perching on their stalks in order to pick off the flies; frequently they are seen on rails, springing at flies as they pass.

THE CERULEAN WARBLER.

Blue above, white beneath; the wings and tail are black, the outer tail feathers are white.

It inhabits Pennsylvania.

The females begin in April to build their nests; the outside is composed of lichen, the inside is lined with the fine down of plants, and between the moss and the down is a layer of horse-hair; the form of the nest is cylindrical, close at bottom, open at the top.

THE SYBIL.

Plumage blackish, white beneath, breast a dusky red, a white spot on the wings.

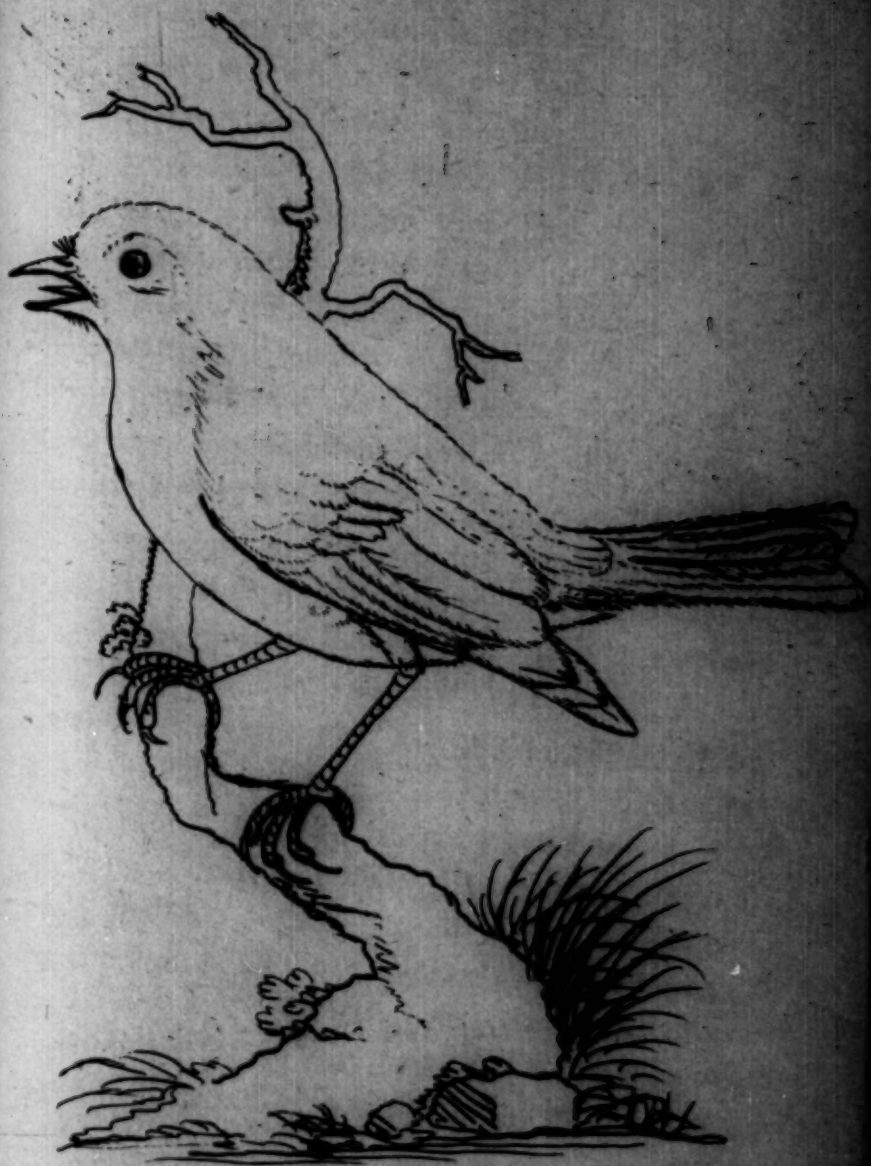
It inhabits Madagascar, and sings delightfully.

THE RED-BREAST.

Plumage a kind of olive colour, the throat and breast a deep orange red.

It inhabits Europe, feeds on the seeds of the spindle tree, sings excellently, is quarrelsome, and consequently solitary; its fearlessness of mankind has occasioned it every where to be distinguished by a familiar name. The English call it Robin Red-breast; the Danes, Tommi Liden; the Norwegians, Peter Ronsmad; the Germans, Thomas Gierdet. In several parts of Europe Red-breasts are birds of passage; in general they spend the summer in the woods, and at the close of the year frequent the habitations of men. They build their nests near the ground, upon the roots of young trees, or amongst plants strong enough to support them, in the thickest coverts, or most concealed holes of walls. The nest is made of moss, leaves, and horse-hair, and lined with feathers; they often cover it with leaves, leaving only under the heap a narrow and oblique entrance, which the female conceals with a leaf, when she goes out. She lays from five to seven eggs, of a brownish colour, or dull white, sprinkled with reddish spots. Whilst she sits the male warbles in the
woods

ORDER 6. *Passeres.*
Genus 76. *Motacilla.*



ROBIN RED BREAST.

Published June 1877 by Geo. Johnson S. Pauls Church Yard London.



B¹L

woods his tender and harmonious song ; he seems entirely engrossed with his mate, and suffers no birds of his own species to live very near. There is a common proverb, that two Red-breasts are never found in one bush.

Red-breasts seek the shade, and prefer moist situations ; in the spring they feed on worms and insects, which they take with great address ; they flutter like a butterfly about a leaf, on which they perceive a fly ; on the ground they spring forward with little hops, and dart on their prey, flapping their wings. In the autumn they eat berries and fruits.

There is no bird that sings more early : he is awake the first in the woods, and begins his song by the dawn of day, and he is the last that we hear, or see flutter about in the evening ; besides, his song continues the greatest part of the winter and the spring.

No bird is so easily taken by call-birds or by traps ; it is scarcely possible to make any noise which shall not awaken the curiosity, and engage the attention of all the Red-breasts that are near ; and if any bird-lime twigs be placed, they fly upon them ; should any one effect his escape from that snare, he makes a little noise, which occasions

sions the rest that are not taken immediately to fly away.

The young have not the red feathers on their breast until after their first moulting. About the beginning of October, many of them prepare to leave France; they do not go in flocks, but preserve in their migrations their solitary character; they return to France in April. A gentleman in that month had taken several in nets for three days, one after another; on the fourth day, the morning being fine, he expected his usual success, but was disappointed, not one bird could be found.

However, many Red-breasts remain all the year in France; in winter they become very tame, and when the ground is covered with snow, approach houses, and even fly into the rooms if the windows be left open; they discover an affectionate familiarity, coming to pick up crumbs on the table. In a monastery, a Red-breast was kept in one of the cells; in two or three days he seemed quite at his ease: he spent his time there very happily all the winter: in the spring he struck with his beak against the window, as though he wished to go, and the window being opened he withdrew. Sometimes they have been known to come for years together to the same house, and

to sit and sing on the shoulders or chairs of those who fed them. A gentleman, in Staffordshire, found a Red-breast one morning in his chamber; it sat and sang on a chair; he opened the window to let it go out, but the bird seemed to have conceived an affection for him, and flew after him down stairs, fed on some crumbs whilst the gentleman was at breakfast, amusing him with his song, and flying about the house all day. At night, the little sociable bird followed him up stairs when he retired to his chamber, and the next morning he was awakened by the Robin fluttering over his face; the bird then retired to his chair and began to sing, and in this manner continued to live for some time with the gentleman, though every day he might have gone out, the windows being left open with that view. In a tame state, Red-breasts will eat almost any thing, bread, or small pieces of meat, or grain.

As the Red-breast lives mostly on insects in summer, it is a bird difficult to bring up in a cage, though naturally tame: his beak is slight, like that of birds that feed chiefly on insects.

In autumn they are very fat, and delicate food.

In England the Red-breast is held in peculiar esteem. The old, and favourite ballad of the Children in the Wood, may not have contributed
a little

a little to the tenderness with which it is treated by the playful school-boy; and the last kind offices which they are represented in that simple song to have performed to the little innocents who died in the wood, in covering their bodies with leaves, naturally enough tends to excite in young and feeling minds, acts of forbearance, and sentiments of affection.

THE WREN.

The plumage is grey, the wings waved with black, and ash colour.

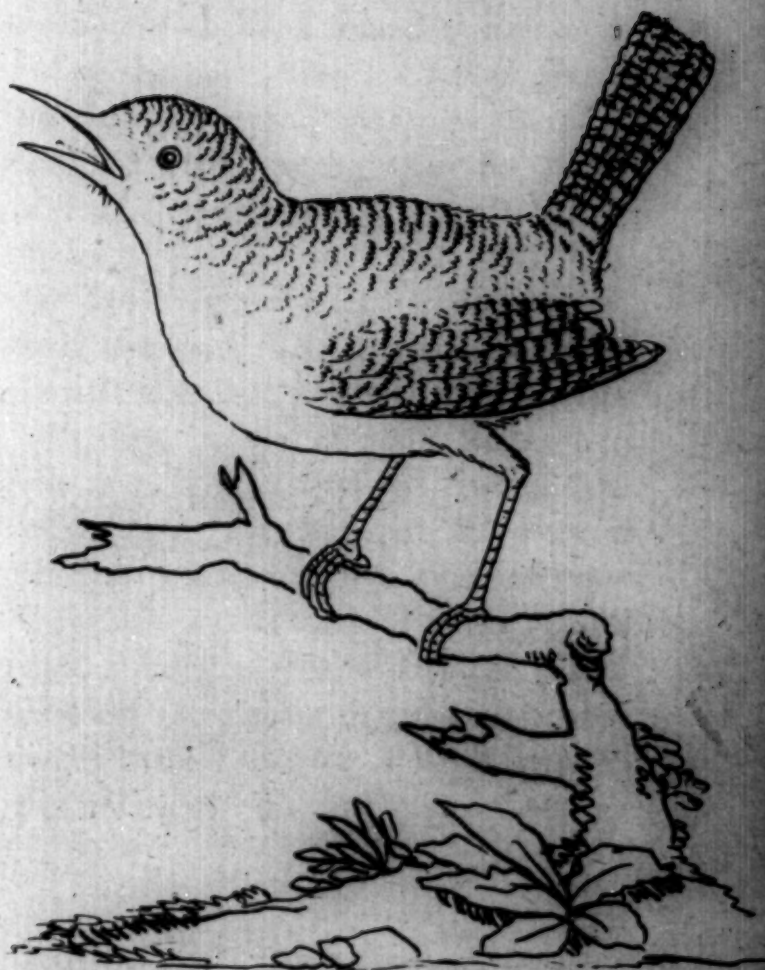
The bill is very slender, pointed, and scarcely bowed; the wing feathers on their outer webs are crossed with many little dusky bars; the first, second, and third are spotted with white between the bars.

The tail is rounded and crossed with dusky, blackish lines.

The Wren is a sprightly little bird, frequenting villages, and the neighbourhood of towns at the approach of winter, and chanting, especially towards the evening, with a clear voice, his pleasing, animated song.

He sometimes shews himself for a moment upon a heap of dry wood, the next instant enters it, and disappears. For a moment he is seen upon the edge of the thatch, but quickly conceals himself under

ORDER 6th *Passeres.*
Genus 76 *Motacilla.*



WREN.

Published June 1797 by Jos. Johnson S^t Pauls Church Yard London.

B¹L

under it, or in some hole in the wall. As soon as he comes out, he frisks amongst the thick branches of the neighbouring bushes, always raising his little tail.

His flight is quick, and irregular, and he flaps his little wings so rapidly that you do not see their motion.

He preserves all his gaiety during the cold and gloomy season of winter, and sings his little lively song, in which, notes, like the words *sideriti*, *sideriti*, are often repeated, with more than usual animation and perseverance, when the falling snows and chilling cold seem to make all nature silent and torpid.

In that season he frequents our court-yards, particularly the wood houses, seeking amongst the sticks and under the banks, under the roofs of our outhouses, in holes of walls, and even in the mouths of wells, the chrysalids, and the dead bodies of insects. He frequents the sides of streams that do not freeze, retiring occasionally into the hollow parts of decayed trees, where twenty have been found crouded together.

Although they are neither shy, nor timid, they are not easily taken; they are so nimble, and so small, that they elude the attempts of their enemies.

In

In the spring the Wren frequents woods, where it builds its nest under thick and leafy branches, at no great distance from the ground, sometimes in a mossy bank, or in the projecting margin of a little stream, under the trunk of a tree, against a rock, and sometimes in the roofs of the solitary cots of faggot-makers in the woods. The outside of this curious structure is composed entirely of moss, and neatly lined with feathers. It is almost round, and so uncouth on the outside as to resemble a moss-grown clod, and excite of course no attention. A little entrance is left on the side; the Wren lays from ten to eighteen small eggs, of a dingy white, spotted at the larger end with red.

If she perceive that her nest is discovered, she immediately forsakes it.

Sometimes the field-mouse takes possession of a Wren's nest, but whether it be first deserted, or whether the mouse destroys the young, is not known.

Like the Robin the Wren sings late in the evening, and early in the morning.

It inhabits every part of Europe, and continues with us in England all the year.

THE GOLDEN-CRESTED WREN.

On the crown the feathers are orange coloured, bounded on each side by black; plumage above a yellowish green, a reddish white beneath; the wing coverts dusky, crossed with two white bands; quills and tail dusky, edged with pale green.

This bird is the smallest that is known in Europe; it escapes through the meshes of our common bird-nets, and the wires of our closest cages. If we put it into a room, in time it disappears through some little unperceived opening. In our gardens it soon eludes our sight, and no wonder, since there are few leaves under which it may not sit concealed. If you attempt to shoot it, with a view to preserve the figure of the bird, the finest sand is sufficiently coarse for the purpose, so minute is the beautiful little object of your pursuit. Its cry resembles that of the grasshopper, and it scarcely exceeds the grasshopper in size.

The female lays six or seven eggs in a curious nest, like a hollow globe, the outside is of moss, the inside is lined with the finest down, and the entrance is a little hole in the side. She builds generally in woods, sometimes in our gardens, in pines or yew trees.

The

The smallest insects are their food. In the summer, they take them on the wing; in the winter, they feed upon their larvæ, their chrysalids, and upon little worms; occasionally they eat small seeds, particularly the seeds of fennel, and they turn over the earth or decayed wood which is in the hollow parts of willows, probably for the larvæ of insects.

They frequent oak trees, seemingly in preference to any others. They are very sprightly, and in perpetual motion, running along the branches in every direction, sometimes with their backs downwards like the Titmouse, searching for insects in every little cavity of the bark. The Crested Wren is found in every quarter of the globe, and stays with us in England all the year. Its song is said to be delightful, but weaker than that of the common Wren; it has been seen suspended on the wing for a considerable time over a bush in blossom, singing melodiously.

THE YELLOW WREN.

The plumage is an olive green, the eye-brows yellowish, the wings and tail are brown, edged with yellowish green.

Its food is flies and other little insects. During the summer it inhabits woods, making its nest in the most concealed parts of bushes, or in thick grass;

grass; the nest in its construction, and the materials employed, resembles that of the common Wren, and probably this form, as it seems peculiar to our smallest birds, has been suggested by the wise Author of Nature, and of Instinct, because in these cold climates, their warmth might be insufficient for the purpose of incubation. This little bird is much attached to its nest, and in this respect widely differs from the common Wren. A gentleman having found a nest belonging to this little bird, by taking away the eggs as they were laid, occasioned her to produce thirty in succession; he then took pity upon her, and left a sufficient number for her to sit upon. In autumn it quits the woods, and frequents orchards and gardens. Its song continues all the spring and summer, it is full, sweet, pleasing, and continued.

In France, they arrive in the month of April, in little companies of 14 or 15, but they soon separate, and pair. If any very severe cold should happen after their arrival, it is fatal to them, and they are found dead upon the ground.

GENUS 77. PIPRA.

The beak is shorter than the head, towards the base slightly three-sided, strong, hard, a little incurvated, or bowed.

In

In most species the middle toe is connected to the outer toe, as far as the first joint.

Manakins, in general, are very little, and very pretty birds. They are not much known, as they principally inhabit the extensive woods in the warmer climates of America, and seldom quit them to resort to exposed situations, or to approach the habitations of men. Their manner of flying is low, and rapid, and seldom to any considerable distance.

They perch not at the tops, but on the middle, or lower branches of trees, feeding upon wild berries, and sometimes on insects. In general they are seen in little companies, of eight, or ten, mostly of the same species, but sometimes with other birds, even of a different genus: it is in a morning that they are thus collected together, they seem to enjoy then the sweets of society, and express their chearfulness by a gentle and pleasing warbling. In the heat of the day they separate, retiring from the painful splendour of the noon-day sun, into shady retreats. They prefer fresh and verdant situations, though they do not haunt marshes, or the banks of streams.

THE ROCK MANAKIN

Has an erect crest, with a purple margin. The plumage is of a saffron colour, and the coverts of the tail are square, as though cut off.

This bird is the size of a small pigeon, and very beautiful; the plumage, though of one colour, being very regularly disposed. When young, its feathers are brown, afterwards of a rust colour; it is only by degrees that it acquires that beautiful orange, which distinguishes this bird in its more advanced age.

It is an inhabitant of South America, and is found in various parts of Surinam, Cayenne, and Guiana, in rocky situations; but no where so frequent as in the Mountain Luca, near the River Oyapoe, and the Mountain Courouaye, near the River Aprouack: they build there in deep chasms of the rock, and in large caverns and recesses, where the sun never penetrates. Their nests are of a very coarse construction, made like that of the wild pigeon, principally of dry sticks.

It is probable since they are so fond of an obscure retreat, that their eyes are capable of considerable contraction, and dilatation, like those of the owl, because they are seen in the day, particularly

ticularly the male birds, in the neighbourhood of these caverns.

They are very shy, and difficult to be shot, for as soon as they perceive the fowler, they fly with great rapidity, though to no very great distance; their flight is low.

The female lays two eggs: as she advances in years her plumage brightens, she discontinues breeding, and it is asserted, in time, acquires so entire a resemblance to the male, as not to be easily distinguishable; this too has been said to be the case with several of the Gallinaceous birds.

Though naturally wild, they have been tamed so far as to go about with the poultry, to which tribe of birds they bear a considerable resemblance.

THE BLUE BACK MANAKIN,

Has a beautiful crimson crest, the plumage on the back is blue, on other parts black.

It inhabits Brazil, and Cayenne.

When young it is green, except its crimson crest. It frequents woods, seldom wandering far, and sitting mostly perched upon the lower branches of trees, where it finds those feeds, and insects, on which it feeds. Blue Back Manakins are frequently in small flocks, and utter in concert

concert a little note, at short intervals, though not pleasing in itself. It is often grateful to travellers, bewildered in the vast forests of Guiana, for when they hear the cry of these birds, they are certain that water is near.

THE BLACK CAP MANAKIN.

The crown and hind part of the head is black; the chin, fore-part of the neck, and under parts of the body white, these white feathers passing round the neck form a ring. The rest of the plumage is black, except a white spot on each wing.

Like other Manakins they occasionally live in little companies, but do not mix with birds of different species.

The cry they utter resembles that which is made by the little instrument we use in cracking nuts, from which circumstance Mr. Buffon has given it the name of the Nut-cracker. They are very sprightly, and active, seldom in a state of repose, but frisking from branch to branch, without flying to any considerable distance.

A variety of this genus, without the white spot on each wing, frequents the neighbourhood of ants nests; these little birds are observed to spring occasionally from the ground, uttering a singular cry, probably in consequence of their legs being stung by the ants.

THE LITTLE MANAKIN.

The plumage is grey, the head black, spotted with white.

It inhabits India, and is about the size of a Wren.

THE WHITE CAP MANAKIN.

The head is white, the general plumage a grey brown.

It inhabits Brazil and Surinam, frequents reeds, and sings pleasingly.

THE TUNEFUL MANAKIN.

The forehead is yellow, the crown of the head and neck blue; the rest of the plumage above, dusky, and black; the lower part of the back, breast, and thighs, orange.

It inhabits St. Domingo, where it has acquired the name of Organist, from its song, which forms a compleat octave, in the most agreeable succession of notes.

It is probably the same bird mentioned by Du Pratz; its notes, he says, are so varied, so melodious, and warbled in a stile so tender, and expressive, that those who have heard it are less captivated with the song of the Nightingale.

Mr. Du Pratz observes, that it sang perched on an oak near the house where he lived.

It

It has been remarked that this interesting songster sings for near two hours, with scarcely any intermission; and after a respite of about two hours, begins again its delightful melody.

GENUS 78. PARUS.

The bill is straight, strong, hard, and sharp pointed. The nostrils are round, and covered with bristles, which are reflected or turned back over them, from the base of the beak. The tongue appears as though cut off at the end, and is terminated by three or four bristles.

The Titmouse Genus, seems to have a near affinity with several birds of the order Picæ, particularly the Woodpecker, Creeper, &c. Like them they often build in hollow trees, and creep along the under side of the branches, or run up and down the trunk, seeking for insects, in the irregularities of the bark. Some species of the Titmouse, like the Oriole, make a pendulous nest. Indeed, from several circumstances in their general habits, they seem to constitute a miniature resemblance with several of the Picæ.

Most birds of this genus are apparently weak, because they are generally diminutive in size; but they are at the same time sprightly, active, and spirited. In constant action, flitting from tree to tree, hopping from one branch to another,

H 2

climbing

climbing the bark, or running up walls, they fix, and suspend themselves in every possible form; sometimes with the head downwards, seeking for worms, insects, their larvæ, chrysalids, or eggs. They feed too on several kinds of seeds, but instead of breaking them like Linnets, and Goldfinches, between the mandibles of their beak, they generally place them between their feet, and pierce them with the point of the bill. It is curious to see them feed in this manner upon hemp-seed; they will pierce the shells of nuts and almonds, and if a nut be suspended at the end of a string, they will fix upon it, strike it with the bill, and suffer themselves to vibrate with the string, without once losing their hold, or ceasing to peck the nut.

The muscles of their neck are very strong, and their skulls are thick; this explains in part their manœuvres, but to account for the whole, we must suppose that the muscles of their legs and feet are very strong.

Towards the close of autumn, they frequent the neighbourhood of our habitations, feeding upon seeds, and the insects which the cold of winter has destroyed. They search too for the bodies of dead birds; and if they find any alive, entangled in traps, or weakened by disease, they take an advantage

vantage of their distressed and defenceless situation, and though they should be of their own species, they pierce their skulls, and feed upon their brains. This species of cruelty seems implanted in their nature, and to influence them when they are not urged by want; for in a cage, when they are supplied with food in abundance, they will still practise this unnecessary act of violence.

Their food is very various. They will eat nuts, almonds, kernels, chesnuts, figs, hemp-feed, hay-seeds, and a variety of small grains; they are fond too of blood, carrion, fat, suet, and tallow.

In winter, if there be placed upon a window-sill, some hemp-feed in a little box, without a lid, and some suet in a net, the Titmice will be attracted in considerable numbers; their manner of taking the kernel out of the seed, which they place between their feet, and hammer with the bill, and the thievish activity which they discover in seizing this grateful plunder, is very amusing. The Titmice are a very prolific Genus; they lay from 18 to 20 eggs; some of them make their nests in holes of trees, employing their little beaks to give them a form suitable to their purpose, and others build theirs in an oval form, very large, and well adapted for so great a number of eggs;

some again suspend them ingeniously from the branch of a tree, and all employ a variety of proper materials to make a comfortable receptacle for their young ; and exert an amazing, and well directed activity, in furnishing their numerous offspring with convenient food, and in defending them from the assaults of every enemy.

No birds discover more fire and intrepidity ; they are the first to assault the owl ; they aim boldly at his eyes ; their attack is accompanied with a ruffling of the feathers, and a rapid succession of violent attitudes and precipitate motions, which express with energy their little rage.

When they are taken, they bite the hand and fingers of the bird-catcher, striking repeated blows with their bills, and calling with reiterated screams to their companions, who assemble in numbers, and joining in the cry bring numbers more.

They are easily taken in almost every kind of trap. Sometimes they are intoxicated by meal, or meat, soaked in wine ; they attempt to fly, find themselves giddy, flutter, fall, roll about, make an effort to rise, and fall again, and by their strange and singular gestures, and whimsical attitudes, contribute to the amusement of a young spectator.

Although Titmice occasionally discover a savage

vage disposition, in general they live harmoniously together; their cruelty seems capricious, and rather the consequence of their hasty, volatile character, than a fixed habit. Mr. Buffon saw one, who, so far from abusing the power which he derived from his superior strength, when he might have done it with impunity, discovered that tenderness, which helpless, and unprotected weakness should always excite in the strong.

Having put two young black-headed Titmice, just taken from a nest, into a cage, with an old blue Titmouse, it adopted the young, performed all the kind offices of a parent, dividing with them its food, and preparing it for them.

Some persons pretend that at certain seasons they have a pleasing song, and are capable of being taught to pipe tunes, but this is not a very general opinion, and may want confirmation.

Almost all this Genus make hoards of provisions, but it arises perhaps from the impulse of avarice, rather than of foresight, since they generally pass the summer in hilly situations, and the winter in those that are more sheltered.

They seek retired situations to roost in; they seem to wish to pierce the walls to make an evening retreat, and always at some distance from the ground; even in cages, they never roost at the bottom.

Some species have been observed to pass the night in holes of trees; they enter hastily, after looking about on all sides, as though to assure themselves that they were secure, and in vain has a stick been introduced, in order to disturb them, they have obstinately remained in their retreat.

It is probable that they generally return to the same situation to roost, for there they generally establish their magazines. In the spring they are very mischievous in gardens, by pecking the young buds off the trees, or by bruising them in search of insects.

THE TOUPET TITMOUSE.

The head is crested, the forehead black; the body ash-coloured; beneath white, tinged with red.

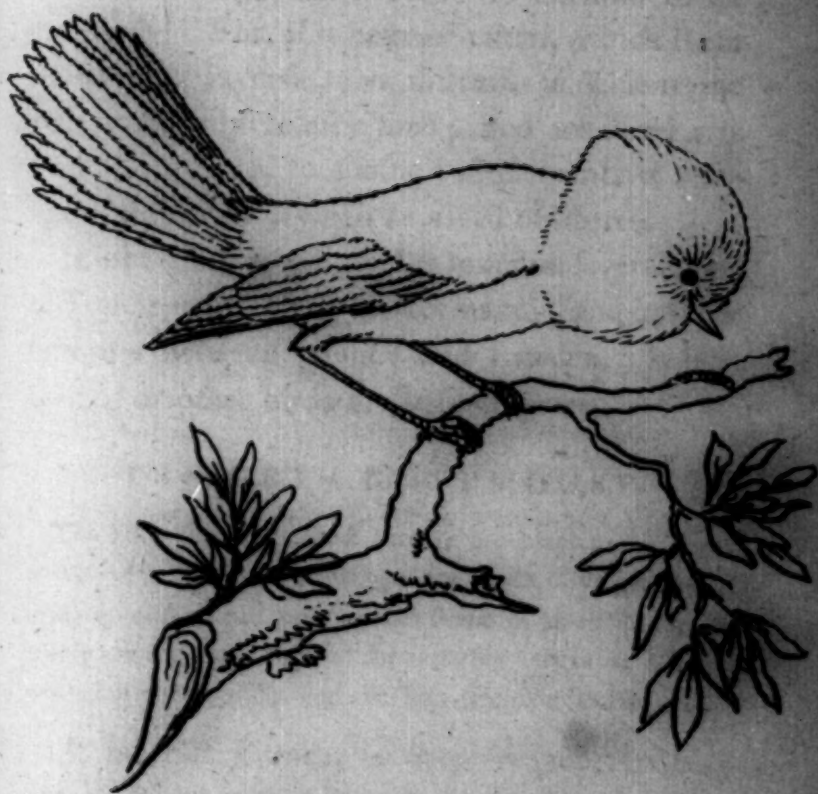
It inhabits, breeds, and passes all the year in Carolina and Virginia. It confines itself to the woods, and like other Titmice feeds on insects. It flies swiftly, and during flight frequently folds up the wing, uttering at the same time a weak note.

THE CRESTED TITMOUSE.

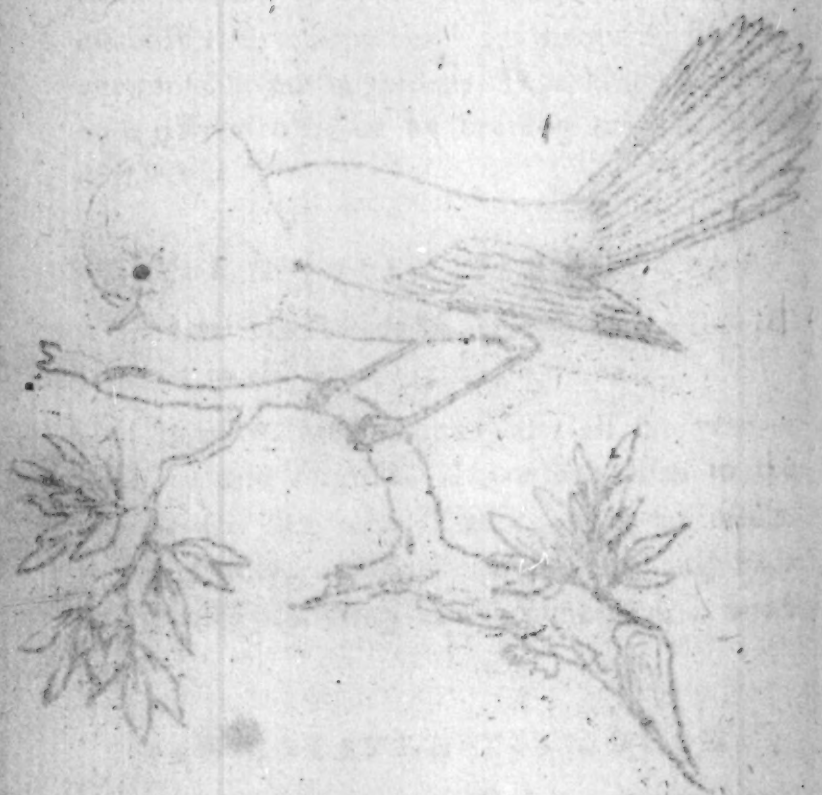
The top of the head is crested with long black feathers, margined with white; the chin and throat are black. It is white beneath.

This

ORDER 6th *Passeres.*
Genus 78 Parus.



GREAT HEADED TITMOUSE.



E L

This beautiful bird exhales a natural perfume, which it contracts among the juniper trees, and other aromatic shrubs, that grow in the solitudes which it frequents. It delights in retirement; forests of pines, and thickets of juniper, are the retreats it loves; withdrawn from other birds, and far from the haunts of men, it enjoys in security that liberty, which seems so essential to its happiness! For, if it be once taken, which from its natural shyness, and distrust, is seldom the case, it sullenly refuses food; and whatever arts may be employed to soothe confinement, it resolutely refuses life, when deprived of liberty.

It inhabits Europe, and is found in several parts of France, particularly in Normandy, and in other latitudes between France and Sweden. It is as fruitful as other birds of the same genus.

THE GREAT TITMOUSE.

The bill, the head, and throat, are black; the cheeks are white; the back and wings, are of an olive green; beneath greenish; but an irregular stripe of black divides the whole of the stomach into two parts; there is a bar of white on each wing; and the legs are of a lead colour.

It inhabits Europe, is very frequent in England, and is found in many latitudes, between Sweden, and the Cape of Good Hope, in Africa.

This species frequents both hills and plains, bushes and groves, orchards and forests; in general preferring elevated situations, particularly in summer.

In the spring, it is said to have a pleasing song, and some have professed to esteem it highly, as a call-bird, for the purpose of ensnaring others.

It is easily tamed, and like the Goldfinch may be taught to eat out of the hand, to draw water in a bucket, and even to breed in confinement.

In a wild state they pair early in February, but it is some time before they begin to build their nest, which they generally place in a hole of a wall of deserted houses, or in the hollow of a tree. They lay from eight to twelve eggs, and hatch them in twelve days.

They breed three times a year, and live to the age of five years.

THE BLUE TITMOUSE.

The crown of the head is blue, the forehead and cheeks, white; a line of black extends to the back part of the neck, which is black. The back is of a yellowish green: Wing coverts blue; the quills black, with dusky edges. The tail blue.

This is one of the commonest species of little birds; they are easily taken in traps, and are remarkable for the colours of their plumage.

In

ORDER 6th Passeres.
Genus 78 Parus.



TITMOUSE BLUE HEADED.

Published since 1777 by J. & J. Johnson, St. Pauls Church Yard London.

B  L

In our gardens they are considered as very destructive, not only injuring the young buds of trees, but taking off the fruit with singular address, which they carry to their magazine.

Fruit, however, is not the only food of the Blue Titmouse, like other birds of the same family; it feeds on insects and carrion, and upon the dead bodies of little birds: it takes off their flesh with so much exactness, that it has been proposed to give them their little carcasses to anatomise. This minute bird is remarkable for the courage, indeed the fury, with which it assaults the owl.

It does not always, (like most of the Titmouse genus), pierce hempseed with the point of its bill, but sometimes breaks them between the mandibles.

The female makes her nest in holes of walls, or trees, warmly lined with feathers, and lays from eight to twenty eggs. She is supposed to lay but once in a season, unless she has been induced to forsake her first nest, and this she is very apt to do, if the eggs be touched; but when once the young are hatched, she defends them with great courage.

In the winter they frequent the neighbourhood of houses, with others of their genus, but without any appearance of union, or attachment.

Though in some respects this little bird be mischievous in our gardens, in others it is serviceable. We are indebted to it for destroying many caterpillars, and the eggs and larvæ of several insects, which are devourers of fruit.

THE COLEMOUSE.

The head is black; the body ash-colour; the back part of the head, and the breast, white.

This is a very pretty bird; it is smaller than the Blue Titmouse, and there is a neatness, and modesty in the colour of the plumage, that produce a pleasing effect. It is less distrustful than others of its genus, and however often it may have been caught, it seems to acquire no caution from experience, but again ventures into the same snares.

The Colemouse is a courageous bird, and in all its habits resembles the Blue Titmouse; like that running up trees, and along the branches, in every direction, in search of insects.

THE MARSH TITMOUSE.

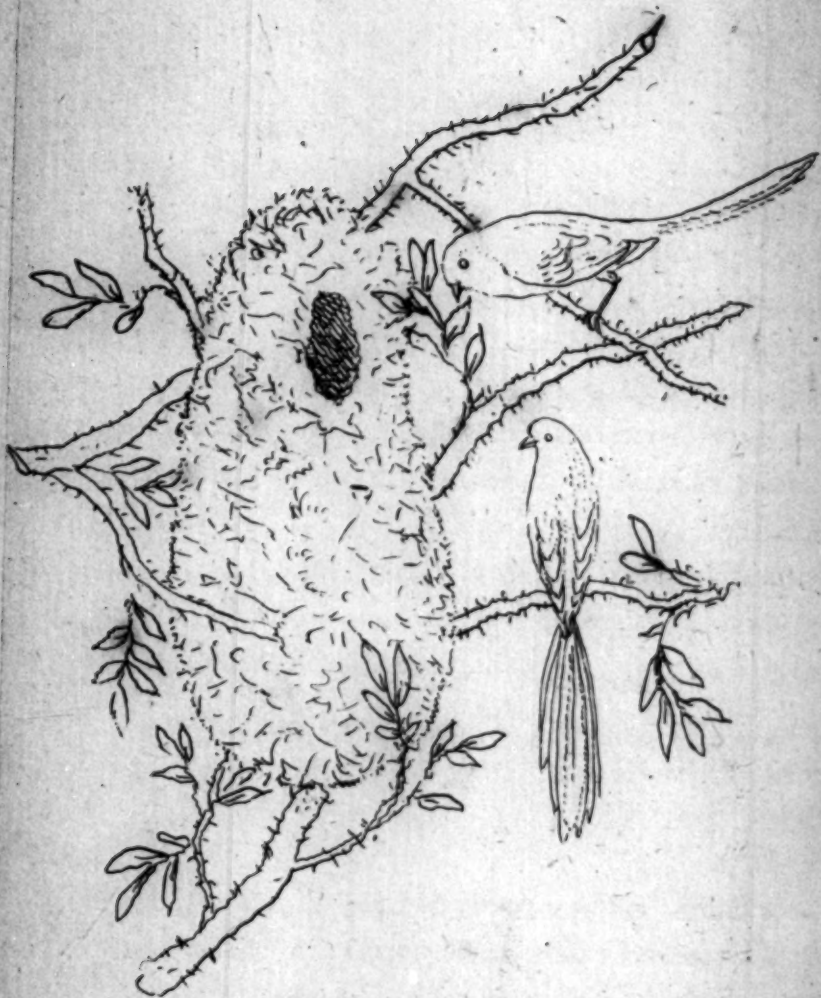
The head is black; the back ash-coloured; the temples white.

By some, this bird is not thought a distinct species, but only a variety of the Colemouse.

It prefers woods, rather than orchards and gardens,

B  L

ORDER 6th *Passeres.*
Genus 78 Parus.



LONG TAIL TITMOUSE.

Published June 1787. by Jos. Johnson S^t. Pauls Church Yard London.

dens, feeding upon seeds, wasps, bees, and caterpillars, and making a hoard of hemp-feed, when it has an opportunity.

He collects several seeds in his bill, and carries them to his magazine, to eat them at his leisure; perhaps his manner of breaking the seeds, which requires a situation where he may place them one at a time between his feet, and pierce them with the beak, may compel him to this instance of foresight.

The Marsh Titmouse is a solitary bird, frequenting willows, and alder trees, and consequently marshy situations. It is common in England, and many parts of Europe.

THE LONG TAIL TITMOUSE.

The head is white, the tail longer than the body, a broad streak of black unites at the back part of the head, and passes down the back to the tail.

This Titmouse has a small, and proportionably a longish body, which, together with the length of its tail, as its flight is rapid, would induce one to imagine that it was an arrow darting through the air.

It inhabits the woods, is sprightly, and active, never scarcely a moment in repose, flitting from bush to bush, running along the branches in every direction,

THE NATURAL HISTORY

direction, hanging by its feet, or assembling at the cry of its own species ; it feeds on insects and seeds, pinches buds of trees, and lays from ten to seventeen eggs, like others of the same family. •

In the construction of its nest, the Long Tail Titmouse differs from most of the tribe ; it is not made in the hole of a tree ; this would be inconvenient to a bird of so long a tail, the feathers of which are apt to fall off upon the slightest violence ; but it is firmly fixed upon the branches of a shrub, about four feet from the ground. The nest is of an oval form, closed above, with a small hole at the side for an entrance, and sometimes another opposite, that the bird may leave it without hazarding an injury to its tail, by turning round in so small a compass. The outside is composed of blades of grass, moss, and lichen ; the inside well furnished with feathers.

They live together with their young in a family, during the winter. Their feathers are very long and downy. In the spring they have a little song.

This species inhabits Europe, and even Jamaica, and is very common with us, frequenting gardens and orchards.

THE

THE PENDULINE TITMOUSE.

The forehead is black; the head and neck ash-colour; behind the top of the head whitish. There is a black band which passes by each eye. The wing and tail feathers are dusky, margined with whitish ash-colour.

This bird inhabits Russia, Poland, Italy, and some other parts of Europe.

The great ingenuity which it employs in the construction of its nest, is the most interesting circumstance in its history. The outside is formed of fibres, and little roots, but the bulk of it consists of the down of willows, of the poplar, of cotton grass, of thistles, and of other plants: this is curiously combined, and interwoven, until it acquires a texture almost as firm as cloth; the inside is furnished with the same materials, but not worked in the same manner, that it may be soft and warm for the young. It is covered above, for the purpose of warmth and shelter, and suspended from the forky part of a slender branch, by a twine, curiously woven by this ingenious mechanic, of the filaments of nettles, and of hemp.

This nest is contrived to hang from a slender branch; hence it is gently rocked by the wind; and suspended over a running water, which secures it from the attempts of rats, snakes, lizards, and

and enemies of that kind ; besides, this situation is remarkably favourable, on account of gnats, and insects, which are the principal food of the Penduline Titmouse. The opening of the nest is on one side, generally towards the water ; the female of this species lays but four or five eggs, and breeds twice a year.

Penduline Titmice frequent marshy situations, concealing themselves amongst rushes, reeds, and the leaves of aquatic plants.

THE BEARDED TITMOUSE.

The head is grey, the tail longer than the body, the bill orange colour in the living bird, beneath each eye is a tuft of black feathers, like whiskers.

It inhabits Europe, and is found in marshy situations, in several parts of England, in the marshes among the reeds near London, and in Gloucestershire and Lancashire.

This has been supposed to be an Indian bird. Mr. Buffon suggests, that it was introduced into England by the Countess of Albemarle, who brought a cage full of them from Denmark, some which might have escaped, and planted a colony with us, but they are too numerous, and too widely dispersed, to suppose that to have been their first introduction. They feed on the seeds of reeds, and on small insects,

insects, and stay with us the whole year. Their nests are not very certainly known, but as some have been found composed of very soft, downy materials, and suspended from three reeds connected at the top, for that purpose, it is supposed that they belong to this species. The reed grounds in several places cover many acres, and are only visited in boats, at the time that the reeds are cut; this accounts for our knowing so little of the habits of this bird, which probably may be very interesting, if it be true, as asserted, that the male covers the female with his wings, when they repose. This singular attention might lead one to presume a number of other attentions, curious, and amusing.

THE AMOROUS TITMOUSE.

Its plumage is of a slate colour.

It inhabits the northern parts of Asia.

When birds of this species are confined in a cage, in pairs, nothing can exceed their fondness: they are perpetually billing and caressing one another, and by a thousand little attentions, not only alleviate the rigours of confinement, but make even captivity delightful.

THE

THE CAPE TITMOUSE

Inhabits the southern parts of Africa, and builds a nest in the form of a bottle, with a short neck.

It is composed chiefly of a cotton-like substance, and concealed amongst the thickest shrubs: on the outside of the nest, there is an additional structure for the lodgement of the male, whilst the female sits, or broods her young. It is said too, that when the female leaves the nest, the male strikes against the outside, and causes the edges of the entrance to close together; by this means, defending their young from such insects as might injure them, when unprotected by the presence of their parents.

GENUS 79. HIRUNDO.

The bill is short, broad at the base, small at the point, and a little bending. The gape of the bill very long.

The nostrils are open.

The tongue short, broad, and cloven.

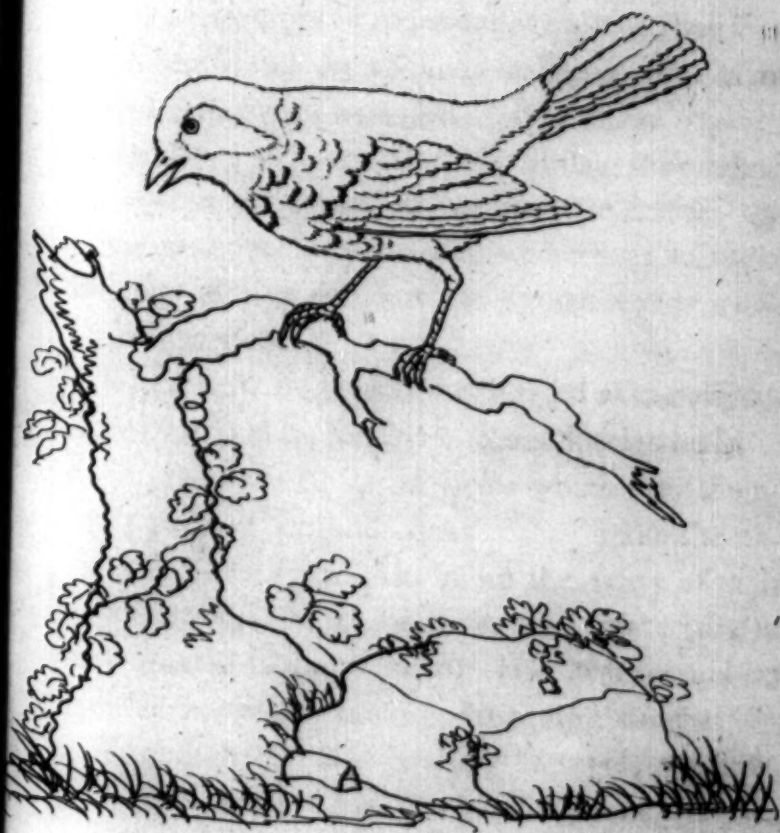
The tail in most species forked, and the wings long.

The legs, the toes placed three before, and one behind, a very few species excepted.

This genus of birds lives on insects which they take on the wing.

Their

ORDER 6.th
Genus 78.



TITMOUSE.

B  L

Their plumage, though not beautiful in itself, is glossed with different shades, so as to shew a change of colours, in different points of view.

The mouths of the *Hirundo* genus, or Swallows, are not like those of the Goatsucker, furnished with a viscous, or clammy substance, to retain the flies and insects that they once have taken into their beaks: this is unnecessary to the Swallow tribe, whose sight is remarkably quick; they seize the flying insects by a sudden snapping of the mandibles, which can be heard at a distance.

Swallows are very sociable birds; they come, and fly, and migrate in considerable flocks, and in some degree perform the kind offices of social life, by assisting one another in the construction of their nests.

Their nests in general are formed with considerable care, and intelligence. Some species build in the holes of walls, or in holes which they themselves prepare in sand rocks: they make the cavities sufficiently deep to insure the safety of their infant brood, and carry them such materials, as may enable them to lie soft and warm, and at their ease; others again build against houses.

The flight of the Swallow is rapid, yet easy, and continued; and indeed, this seems its natural state; it eats, drinks, and bathes, and even feeds its young upon the wing.

It

It rises, descends, and sails smoothly, yet rapidly through the air, without the least appearance of effort.

It feels itself in its proper element, and as it glides through the yielding expanse in every direction, by a cheerful twittering note, expresses its felicity.

One time it pursues the flitting insects, following their oblique, and irregular direction, with the utmost facility, quitting one to chase another, and in its flight seizing perhaps a third. Sometimes the Swallow skims lightly over the surface of the fields, and of the water, to seize the insects, which the rain, or moisture have attracted; sometimes too it escapes itself from the impetuous attempt of a bird of prey, by the ready quickness of its movements. Always master of its flight, however rapid, in an instant it can change its direction. It seems to describe in the air, a changeable, trackless, labyrinth; the paths of which cross, interweave, diverge, approach, confound, combine, rise, descend, lose themselves, and appear again to intersect, and entangle one another in a thousand ways, too complicated to be pictured to the eye, by the art of drawing, or to the imagination, by the powers of verbal description.

The

The Swallow tribe appears to belong equally to both continents. Indeed what country can we suppose inaccessible to birds who fly so well, and transport themselves from one place to another, with such wonderful facility.

With regard to the migration of Swallows, naturalists are very much divided.

There are three opinions on this subject.

The first is, that they remove in the winter to warmer climates, in search of insect food.

The second, that they retire to caverns, and hollows of rocks, and pass the winter there, torpid.

The third opinion is, that they conceal themselves under water, in the winter, collecting (as some say), in numbers on a reed, until it break, and let them gently sink. Others relate, that several of them take a straw between their beaks, and plunge together beneath the surface; whilst others again assert, that they unite their feet together, and immerse themselves in clusters.

The advocates for the first opinion, that they remove to warmer climates, quote several authorities.

Peter Martyr says, that he *knows* that Kites and Swallows quit Europe at the approach of winter, and pass into Egypt.

Father Kirker asserts, upon the testimony of the inhabitants of the Morea, that a great number of Swallows and Storks pass every year from Egypt and Lybia, to Europe.

Mr. Adanson, an attentive observer, and highly deserving attention, asserts, that Chimney Swallows arrive at Senegal about the 9th of October, and return in the spring. That on the 6th of October, being fifty leagues from the coast, between the Island of Goree and Senegal, he saw four Swallows,

lows, which rested on his ship; they were all so fatigued, that they suffered themselves to be taken, and he knew them to be at least of the European species.

About the same season, in the year 1765, the Viscount Querhoent, an intelligent Natural Historian, relates, that the *Penthievre*, a French ship, was almost darkened by a cloud of Swallows, near the Cape de Verd Islands.

Leguat, on the 12th of November, saw four Swallows, which accompanied his vessel to the Cape de Verd Islands.

Christopher Columbus, in his second voyage, saw one which flew near his ship, ten days before he discovered Dominica.

Forster, and many other travellers, and writers of respectable authority, speak decidedly to similar circumstances, of Swallows flying near ships, at some distance from land: and other attentive observers, have asserted, that *Swallows* leave England about the latter end of September; that prodigious swarms assemble at that time on the Coast of Suffolk and Norfolk; that they rest on trees, churches, and other buildings for some days, if the wind be unfavourable; but that if it should change in the night, and become propitious, they all disappear before morning.

Mr. Collinson, a very respectable Member of the Royal Society, mentions two curious relations, of good authority; the one communicated by Sir Charles Wager, the other by a Mr. Wright, a master of a ship. Sir Charles Wager writes, 'Returning home in the spring of the year, as I came into founding, in our channel, a great flock of Swallows came, and settled on all my rigging; every rope was covered; they hung on one another like a swarm of bees; the decks, and carving, were filled with them: they seemed almost famished and spent, and were only feathers and bones, but being

‘being recruited by a night’s rest, they took their flight in the morning.’

Mr. White, an observant Naturalist, and the author of an ingenious work, intitled, *The Natural History and Antiquities of Selborne*, on Michaelmas-day, 1768, early in the morning, which was very misty, on a large wild heath, saw numberless Swallows clustered on the bushes; the moment the sun broke out, they were instantly on the wing, and proceeded with an easy, and placid flight, towards the sea. After this he saw no more flocks, only now and then a straggler.—See *Philosophical Transactions*, volume 51, part 2, page 459.

In Kalm’s Voyage to America, when he had passed over about two-thirds of the Atlantic Ocean, on the second of September, a Swallow settled on his ship.

This is, at least, a strong presumption of their power to perform a very distant flight.

In favour of the second opinion, that they retire to caverns, and the hollows of rocks, and pass the winter there, torpid,

Several authorities are quoted. Aristotle asserts, that many have been found under those circumstances, without a single feather upon their bodies. Albert, Augustin, Nyphus, Gaspard, Heldelin, and others, assert, that Swallows have often been found in Germany, in a torpid state, in the hollows of trees, and even in their nests.

Mr. Collinson, in the 53d volume of the *Philosophical Transactions*, page 101, mentions the testimony of three gentlemen, who say, that a number of Sand Martins were drawn out of a cliff, on the banks of the River Rhine, in

March

March 1762. And the Hon. Daines Barrington relates, on the authority of Lord Belhaven, that numbers of Swallows have been found in old dry walls, and sand hills, near his seat in East Lothian, in Scotland, not only once, but year after year; and that when exposed to the warmth of fire, they revived.

Some years ago, it is said, they were seen in a torpid state, on the fall of a great fragment of the chalky cliffs of Sussex; and in a decayed hollow tree, cut down near Dolgelli, in Merionethshire, in Wales.

In a cliff near Whitby, in Yorkshire, when digging for a fox, whole bushels of torpid swallows were found.

Mr. Conway, of Syckton, in Flintshire, in Wales, asserts, that a few years ago, looking down an old lead mine, in that county, he observed numbers of Swallows clinging to the timbers, seemingly asleep; that on throwing some gravel upon them, they just moved, but did not attempt to fly; this happened between the latter end of October and Christmas.

On the 23d of October, 1767, a Martin was seen in Southwark, flying in and out of a nest, and on the 29th of October, four or five Swallows were observed to hover about, and settle on the county hospital at Oxford; and once near Christmas, a few were noticed on the moulding of a window of Merton College.

The advocates for this opinion, support their theory by the analogy of Bats, of Marmots, of Dormice, and Bears, who pass the winter in a torpid state; and urge, that the prodigious exertions of this little bird, who, during the summer, has been so much on the wing, may require the refreshment of a winter's sleep. On the other hand, it is objected, that admitting these facts to be true, they may have been accidental circumstances. The birds so found, might have been a late hatch that were left behind, not being sufficiently advanced

vanced to support the fatigue of a migration; or at most, that these facts may apply only to some species. Nor should it be omitted, that in 1757, by the direction of Mr. Collinson, a bank of a river, perforated with the holes of the Sand Martin, was accurately searched, in order to find some of these birds, but without success. It is farther objected, that if this opinion, of their torpor arising from cold, was well founded, when the seasons are mild, in autumn, they ought not to disappear so soon; and when we have warm weather in February or March, they should appear sooner; this, it is said, is not the case.

The third notion, that they remain concealed under water, or in the mud, during the winter, is still more extraordinary; and from its being contrary to all analogy, seems to require the strongest support from actual observation.

It was first suggested by Olaus Magnus, Archbishop of Upsal, who says, that they are often found in clustered masses at the bottom of the northern lakes, beak to beak, wing to wing, and foot to foot. That when they are taken by experienced fishermen, they throw them in again; but those who are unexperienced, by exposing them to warmth, revive them, it is true, but that this premature resurrection is attended only by a short renewal of their powers.

Some very respectable Natural Historians have favoured this opinion; amongst others, the father, and founder of this science, the great Linnaeus. Klein has adopted the same opinion, and even produced certificates; they are principally signed by one person, and speak of a solitary instance, which happened long before, in the years of childhood, or else are founded upon hearsay, and admitted to be uncommon.

Etmulles says, that he saw a bushel of Swallows, clustered together, taken out of a frozen fish pond.

Dr. Colas, speaking of the manner of fishing in northern climates, by breaking holes, and drawing nets under the ice, asserts, that he saw sixteen Swallows so drawn out of the Lake of Samrodt; thirty out of a great pond belonging to Rosincilen; and at Schlebitten, near a house of the Earl of Dolma, he saw two Swallows just come out of the water, that could scarcely stand, being very wet and weak, and with the wings hanging on the ground.

To support these surprising, and confessedly rare instances, by some kind of analogy, they refer to the case of the larvæ of many insects, of frogs, the amphibious animals, and fish.

It is objected, that Olaus Magnus, who broached this doctrine, seems to have been very credulous, or very fortunate, that at the same time that he has peopled the water with Swallows, he has translated mice to the clouds; and that his writings are very amusing, and abound with wonders.

That Linnæus restrains his assertion to two of the species; that he does not profess to have seen, or to vouch the truth of every thing he relates.

On the authority of Keoping, he has rather favoured the opinion, that there are men with tails.

On Solander's authority, he has given a wonderful account of the Furia, an insect in Bothnia, which falling out of the air upon the bodies of men, or animals, penetrates them in an instant, and afflicts them with pain so excruciating, as to prove fatal in a quarter of an hour.

On the authority of Baron Munchausen, he speaks of the seeds of Fungusses, which being dispersed in water, live, and move, at last fix themselves, and become Fungusses again.—Animals thus becoming vegetables.

It is further objected that the instances adduced are very few, and most of them grounded upon hearsay.—That if this really were the fact, they would often be taken in nets by fishermen, and the proofs be notorious, from the frequent experience and testimony of sailors, travellers, fowlers, and rustics. That as their collecting together is a circumstance of general observation, so their actual immersion, and emergence, must have been frequently seen, if it really existed.

It has been publickly advertized in Germany, to any person, who in the winter should produce Swallows, taken out of water, in this torpid state, to recompense them, by paying them the weight of the Swallows so found in money.

Many literary characters, and persons of distinction, who were disposed to believe this circumstance, have promised to endeavour to furnish additional proofs to Mr. Reaumur, and Count Buffon, but have not done it.

It is contended, that the analogy between Swallows, and amphibious animals, does not strictly apply, as the last are anatomically different; that having only one auricle, and one ventricle, and cold blood, their structure is calculated to admit of their breathing arbitrarily, or at distant intervals, whereas there is no such contrivance in Swallows. And that very ingenious anatomist, Mr. John Hunter, has dissected many Swallows, but found nothing in their organs of respiration different from other birds. It is contended too, that lizards and frogs, which do sleep during winter, do breathe in their torpid state, consequently that the notion that terrestrial animals can remain long under water, without drowning, seems unfounded on observation, and improbable.

The authors of the Italian Ornithology, and Count Buffon, have made the experiment of plunging Swallows under water, and they died.

Count Buffon tried a similar experiment with frogs and fish, in the month of February; those which he put into water, which was open to the air, and were allowed to rise to the surface, continued to live; but those that were put into a vessel of water, under circumstances exactly similar, except that they were restrained from coming up quite to the surface, soon shewed symptoms of uneasiness, and died; some in six hours, and those that survived the longest, in two days.

Mr. Frisch tied to the legs of Swallows, threads dipped in water colours; the next year, he asserts, that he saw the same birds, and that the threads had not lost their colour,

ADDITIONAL OBSERVATION.

Mr. White, the ingenious author of the Natural History of Selborne, whose remarks well deserve the attention of every ornithologist, from repeated observations, inclines to the opinion, that many of the Swallow kind do not depart from this island, but retire to holes and caverns, from which they are allured even in the winter, when the weather is warm and inviting.

THE CHIMNEY SWALLOW.

The forehead and chin, a reddish chesnut colour; the plumage above blackish, glossed with purple; beneath white; the tail forked; all the feathers in the tail, except the two in the middle, marked with an oval white spot, near the end.

The Chimney Swallows seem by instinct attached to the habitations of men. They build their nests in our chimnies, and even in chambers,

bers, but little frequented, if the windows be left open.

In mountainous countries, where the chimnies are closed above in the summer, on account of the heavy snows, they build under the eaves, still constant in their attachment to the neighbourhood of man. A bewildered traveller when he sees one of these birds, may consider it as a bird of good omen, presaging that some habitation is near.

They generally appear about the beginning or middle of April. Their visit is not hastened by premature warm weather, in February or March; or retarded by severe cold in April. In 1740, great numbers died in France: the severity of the cold had deprived them of their insect food; their bodies were emaciated, and some were observed to fix themselves to the wall, and seize the dried insects that remained in the spiders webs.

Birds so innocent, and useful, have every claim to our protection: they deliver us from those swarms of insects which would otherwise infest our houses, injure our gardens, our trees, and, perhaps, our harvests. The least return we ought to make, and, indeed, the only one they require, is, to let them live secure. Yet, we see, that many, insensible to the advantages we receive from them, indulge themselves in the inhuman,

and unmanly amusement, of shooting at them with guns, under the pretence of perfecting themselves in that art, by exercising it against a mark, which moves so swiftly, so irregularly, and consequently which it must be so difficult to hit.

They frequent the same place, year after year; this is proved by the experiment of Frisch: and at a castle near Lorraine, a ring of brass wire was fixed to the foot of a Swallow, the Swallow returned with it again the next year. Every season they build a new nest, close to that of the year before, composed of straw, of plaistered earth, and horse-hair, and lined with dry grass and feathers, and open at the top.

They are caressing birds; the female lays twice a year. Whilst she sits, the male spends the night on the edge of the nest; his rest is short; he flies till late in the evening, and begins his babbling early in the morning. As soon as the young are hatched, both the parents frequently feed them, and keep the nest remarkably neat. But it is very amusing to see them instruct their offspring how to fly; they encourage them by their voice, present them with their food at a little distance, drawing back by degrees as they advance, and at last gently push them from the nest, not without the appearance of great solicitude: they sport with
their

their young ones as they fly, and warble to them in the most expressive manner, as it were to animate their endeavours, by the assurance of protection.

As an instance of their ardent attachment to their young, Boerhaave relates, that a Swallow that had been absent to get provisions, at his return finding the house on fire, to which his nest was fixed, darted through the flame, to feed, and protect his offspring.

Though Swallows pass much of their time upon the wing, yet they often repose themselves upon the roofs of houses, chimnies, trees, and sometimes on the ground.

In England, towards the close of summer, they have been observed to pass the night upon alders, and aquatic trees, or shrubs; for this purpose they choose the lowest branches that are most sheltered from the wind.

Two gentlemen, who spent a night at Maidenhead-bridge in September, went by torch-light to an adjacent isle, and in half an hour brought away 50 dozen. They had only to draw the willow twigs through their hands, the birds did not attempt to escape: if it be said that these birds were assembled in this manner, in order to plunge under the water, it will be objected, that in that

case, in a river so perpetually fished as the River Thames, the fishermen must very frequently bring them up in their nets.

It has been observed, that the twigs upon which they have collected, generally die.

They leave this country, or at least disappear about the beginning of October; and it is supposed they generally depart in the night, perhaps to be less exposed to the attacks of birds of prey; and that they avail themselves of a favourable wind, which must wonderfully facilitate their passage: when we consider the velocity with which air balloons have been carried, merely by the current of the air, at a little elevation, the difficulty of the migration of birds seems much lessened; and it has been observed by Mr. Hebert, that Swallows, on their departure, rise into a higher region of the air.

In the Islands of Hieres, which are on the south coast of France, where the weather is always temperate, and a perpetual spring is enjoyed, Swallows have been seen all the winter; there they have found their insect food. They roost upon the orange trees, and injure that delicate plant.

A Swallow has been employed like a Carrier Pigeon; the female was taken from her nest, to the place from which the intelligence was to be sent, and a thread of a certain colour, and a cer-
tain

tain number of knots, was tied to the foot; the affectionate mother hastened to her nest, and brought with astonishing expedition, the account which was confided to her.

In England we call this bird the Chimney Swallow, because it generally builds in chimnies, sometimes at the depth of five or six feet, so that the young find a difficulty in leaving it, and frequently fall into the room below. When they have succeeded, they remain for some time on the chimney top. Their next effort is to reach the leafless bough of a tree, where they sit in a row; soon after they begin to fly, their parents attend upon, and meet them occasionally at an angle, with an insect which they receive upon the wing.

In Sweden, they build in barns; in other countries, in porches, gateways, galleries, and open halls.

They lay from four to six eggs; their first brood leaves their nest the first week in July, their last about the middle or end of August.

The following remarks on the Chimney Swallow, are extracted from Mr. White's interesting publication, intituled, *The Natural History of Selborne*.

On the 22d September, 1772, he observed the

Swallows and Martins collecting on a walnut-tree; the next morning, which was foggy, at the dawn of day, they all arose together; the rushing noise of the wings, of such a swarm of birds, against the hazy air, was heard to a considerable distance; after that day, only a few stragglers were seen.

He has remarked in some late springs, that though they made their appearance about the middle of April, yet meeting with cold, blustering, north-east winds, they immediately withdrew, absconding for several days, until warmer weather allured them out; hence, he infers, that they do not migrate.

When a boy, he remembers to have seen a straggler on Shrove Tuesday, which must have been not later than the middle of March, and often happens early in February. He has known a Chimney Swallow build in the shaft of a well; but he adds, that they generally with us build in chimnies, preferring a funnel contiguous to those where there are constant fires, and disregarding smoke.

He remarks, that the Swallow discovers wonderful address in ascending and descending through so narrow a passage. When hovering over the top of the funnel, the vibrations of her wings in the confined air, make a rumbling noise like thunder.

The

The Swallow, he conceives, chuses this, in some respects inconvenient situation, to secure the brood from rapacious birds, particularly owls, which frequently fall down chimnies, probably in attempting to get at the nestlings.

When the young Swallows can fly, but are still incapable of providing themselves with food; they play about whilst their parents are chasing flies, who, when they have collected a sufficient quantity, make a signal, on which, the parent and the young, rising towards each other, meet at an angle, and the young one receives the food, uttering a little note, expressive of gratitude, and affection. They sip water as they fly, and bathe upon the wing.

They attend horsemen for miles together, as they ride over the downs, sporting before, behind, and wheeling round, and collecting the insects which are disturbed by the trampling of the horses.

They feed much on small coleopterous, or sheath winged insects, and settle on the ground, picking up gravel to digest their food.

The Swallow is a pleasing songster, and sings in soft, sunny weather, between April and September. A Swallow for two years together built its nest on the handles of a pair of garden shears.

Another built its nest on the wings and body

of an owl, that was hung from the rafter of a barn. On placing a conch shell the following year, where the dead owl had hung before, a Swallow built in the conch shell, and both these nests were lately in Sir Ashton Lever's Museum.

THE ESCULENT SWALLOW.

All the tail feathers are marked with white at the points.

The most curious circumstance that we are acquainted with respecting this bird, is its nest. Mr. Poivre gives the following relation: That in the Streights of Sunda, near Java, he went on shore with a sailor, on an island, called the Little Toe; that in a deep cavern in the rocks, upon the beach, they found a cloud of little birds, which in endeavouring to escape, as they entered, darkened the opening of the cavern; he beat down some with his cane. As he advanced, he perceived the roof covered with nests, in the form of cups, flattened on one side, containing each two or three eggs, or young birds, and lined with feathers; he brought several away with him, and made a drawing of a nest and the birds; he describes them as very small, not exceeding in size a Wren, or Humming Bird.

The

The nests were immediately discovered to be of that kind, which the Chinese consider as so great a delicacy; using them in soups, and ragouts made of chickens, and mixed with ginseng.

The nests are first softened by being steeped in water, then pulled to pieces, put into the body of a fowl, and stewed.

Mr. Poivre says, that in the months of March and April, the surface of the sea from Java to Cochin-China, and from Sumatra to Guinea, is covered with a viscous substance, (perhaps fish spawn) which resembles glue, or isinglass dissolved. The Esculent Swallow is supposed to make its nest of this matter, which it may collect as it flies, or take from the rocks, where it may have been left by the waves.

Mr. Poivre collected, and dried some of this substance, and found it resemble very nearly the substance of the nest.

The colour of the new nests is white, like isinglass; and as the materials of which it is made are soluble in water, the birds very wisely build them in caverns, sheltered from rain.

Some of the nests are of a darker colour; these are supposed to be older, and mixed with impurities, and are used as glue.

The nests weigh about half an ounce each; they

are an article of commerce, and, it is said, that the Dutch export every year from Batavia 125,000 lb. or between 50 and 60 tons weight of these nests.

Some writers suppose, that they are composed of sea worms, of the Mollusca tribe; some of a kind of cuttle fish, and others of a glutinous plant, called Agal Agal.

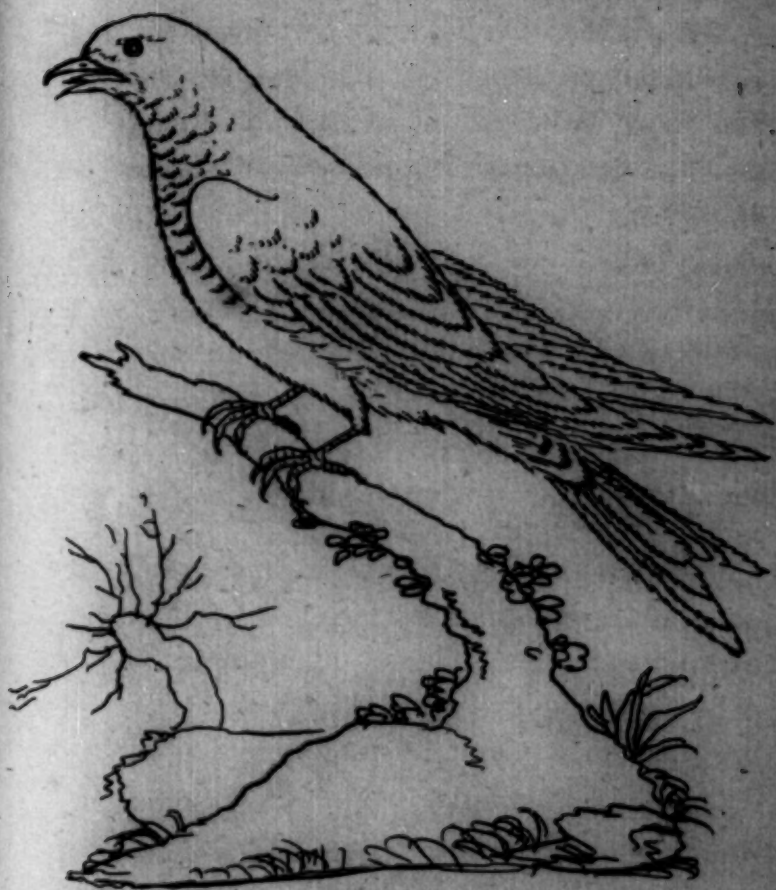
Mr. Marſden ſays, that the Swallows that make these nests, are about the ſize of a Martin, and that they collect with their bills from the foam of the ſea, the materials with which they make their nests.

THE MARTIN.

The tail feathers are without ſpots. The upper part of the body, wings, and tail, blackiſh, gloſſed with blue; white beneath; and the extreme part of the body at the ſetting on of the tail, white.

The Martin builds its neſt againſt the ſides of cliffs that overhang the ſea, but more frequently under the eaves, under cornices, in the upper corners of windows, or under any other projecting parts of houſes. The materials that it employs are very ſimilar to thoſe uſed by the Swallows, viz. earth on the outſide, particularly that which has been thrown up by worms, tempered, and mixed with ſtraw; and lined with feathers. There is, however,

ORDER 6th *Passeres.*
Genus 79 Hirundo.



AMERICAN MARTIN or CANADA SWALLOW.

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ever, this difference, that the Martin's nest is covered above, and the entrance is at a small hole in the side; add to this, that the Martin's nest is far from neat, it is often infested with maggots, fleas, and even bugs, and these are likewise found in the feathers of the birds themselves.

When they build their nests against rocks, it is thought that they last but one season; but the nests which they fix to our houses, serve for several years in succession.

Sometimes they complete their nest in five or six days; for this purpose they bring the earth in their beaks and claws, tempering it, and placing it with their bills; sometimes several assist in the construction of the same nest. There have been instances too, where some have been seen active in endeavouring to destroy the labours of others, and to pull down the nest as fast as these built it up.

Martins do not appear in England quite so soon as the Swallow, and for a little while after their first arrival, confine themselves to low, and marshy situations. They seem so much under the influence of climate, and to have such a presentiment of approaching changes in the weather, that they have been known to quit Lapland the beginning of August, abandoning their young, though the
weather

weather was then fine; but it soon changed, and by the 9th of September, sledges were used.

At other time they have been known to stay later, though the weather has not been very mild; it was judged from thence that no very severe weather would soon happen.

They breed two or three times in the season: the male assiduously attends upon the female whilst she sits, and shews the tenderest solicitude for her, and for their young, attacking with great spirit any bird that approaches the nest. Still there have been instances where, in consequence of an accidental derangement, this affection seems to have vanished. One of their little ones, just capable of flying, fell from the nest upon the window sill; the parents entirely neglected him: finding himself thus abandoned, he exerted his powers, and in three quarters of an hour began to fly. A nest was taken with all the young from the upper corner of a window, and laid upon the window sill; the parents flying backwards and forwards, and frequently visiting the spot where their nest was, must have seen their young, and heard their cries, but they shewed them no attention.

They live on insects, and feed their young when they can fly, on the wing; they catch the insects flying, and if they see one on a wall, they brush it

it with their wing, to induce it to attempt a flight, and thus the insect becomes more easily their prey.

It is asserted by some, that Martins also feed upon Caterpillars, which they pick from trees.

It has been observed, and Linnæus has given his authority to the observation, that Sparrows sometimes dislodge the Martins from their nest, who, in revenge, plaister up the entrance, and thus bury the invader alive.

Mr. Bomare has made a very entertaining story of this circumstance in his dictionary: he represents the injured Martins as gently expostulating at first with the intruders, but without effect; that then they call a council of the neighbouring Martins, state their grievance, and implore their aid; that the Martins depute heralds to summon the invaders to retire, and that when they find these messengers return without success, the whole assembly breaks up. Every Martin provides himself with some tempered earth; they all resort to the nest, making a third attempt to induce the Sparrows to restore the habitation which they have usurped: this proving ineffectual, they proceed to punish such obstinate injustice by closing up the entrance, and entombing the Sparrows, thus making the property they have so unfairly acquired the means of their punishment.

It

It must be supposed that there is a good deal of imagination in this detail of Mr. Bomare's; indeed, Mr. Buffon doubts if Martins ever have recourse to such a revenge, having seen Sparrows usurp their nests, and obstinately retain possession, though persecuted for some days by the Martins, who, however, made no attempt to close the entrance of the nest.

It would be difficult to bring up Martins or Swallows in confinement, because insects seem their proper food. There is an account of some children keeping a nest of Chimney Swallows alive ten days, by feeding them with that which had passed through other Swallows before; they lived very well upon this food, until the process was interrupted by the mother of the children, who seemed to be more attached to neatness than to philosophical experiments. Leguat, a traveller, speaks of a Swallow that he tamed, and brought from the Canary Islands; he suffered it to fly out in the morning, and it constantly returned in the evening.

The Count Buffon mentions a tame Swallow, or Martin, which had conceived such an attachment to its mistress, as to remain whole days upon her knees, and shew many expressions of joy on her return, after a short absence. It began to feed

feed out of her hands. One day the bird made its escape, it did not fly far, but suffered itself to be caught by a child, and soon after fell a prey to a cat.

They leave England about the latter end of September, or beginning of October, and before their departure have been observed to exercise themselves in flying more than usually high, as though preparing for a migration.

In the Natural History of Selborne, a book of great merit, lately published, the author says, that on the 26th of November, his neighbour saw a Martin in a sheltered bottom chasing flies, the sun then shone warm; that on the 4th of November he saw several House Martins playing all day long over his fields. He observes, that from the situation of the Martin's nest against a perpendicular wall, it requires great effort, and judgment, firmly to fix the foundation that the superstructure may be secure. For this purpose the bird clings with its claws, and uses its tail for a support like a Woodpecker; and that the materials may not fall by their weight, in a soft state, the intelligent architect advances its work slowly, building only in the morning, and devoting the rest of the day to amusement, and the chase of insects.

The parent birds remove every thing offensive
from

from the nest, whilst their brood are very young. The little ones soon acquire an attention to neatness themselves, and perform that office by putting their tails out at the opening of the nest.

Martins prefer a north-east or north-west exposure for their nests, that they may not be cracked, and injured by the heat of the sun; yet, instinct does not seem to lead them invariably right, for sometimes they build in such situations that their nests have been washed down by rain, and yet they persevere year after year in the same situations.

Mr. White has seen young Martins that only left their nests on the 22d of October: from this, and other observations, particularly from having traced their evening retirement in October, for several nights successively, amongst some low and stunted shrubs; almost impervious to a dog, and in many parts difficult to approach, he supposes, that part of them, at least, must have a winter retreat in this island. It is very remarkable too, that the numbers which return in the spring, bear little proportion to those which withdraw the preceding winter. Are they destroyed by their enemies, or do the parents prevent the younger brood from settling in their neighbourhood?

Martins

Martins have not much note ; they chirp, however, from May to September.

They are distinguished from other birds of this genus, by their legs being covered with soft, downy feathers, to the toes.

THE SAND MARTIN.

Is of a mouse colour ; the throat and stomach white ; the neck encircled with a mouse coloured ring.

It inhabits most parts of Europe, and frequents the steep banks of rivers, of sand pits, of sand rocks near the sea, and by the side of standing waters, because their insect food abounds in such situations, and because there they can with greater ease, make those serpentine, deep, but horizontal holes in which they deposit their eggs, and hatch their young. The nest of this species is only a heap of straw and dried grass, furnished properly with feathers.

They have more abundant means of subsistence than most of their tribe, as they not only feed upon insects which they chase with great rapidity and address, as they hover over the surface of the water, but they feed upon the larvæ and chrysalids which conceal themselves in the ground, and their young in consequence, in general, are very fat,
and

and in some countries esteemed a great delicacy. They arrive in England, and migrate from it about the same time as the Martin. They have been seen in some parts of France during the winter months, but in very small numbers, so as not to justify any general inference; and as they have resources in respect of food which the Martins have not, as mentioned before, it is easy to conceive the probability of some accidental straggler surviving the winter.

Mr. White mentions, that they build in scaffold holes, in a stable at Bishop-Waltham, but that this wall is in a retired, and sequestered inclosure, and faces a large and beautiful lake. He makes the following observations.

Many holes, of different depths, made by the Sand Martin, are found unfinished at the end of summer: perhaps the birds in those places may have met with strata too hard and solid for their tender bills, or the soil may have been loose, and mouldering, and have fallen in, for it is scarcely conceived that these are provided for the succeeding year. After some years they forsake their former holes, which may have become foul and offensive from long use; and perhaps untenable, from their abounding with fleas, which have been seen swarming at the mouths of their holes, like bees on the stools of their hives.

The

The Sand Martins discover great dexterity in boring their holes in the sand, and perform the task with surprising quickness, considering the feeble instruments they employ; indeed it is wonderful how so weak, and tender a bill, can perforate the bank at all.

They have a peculiar manner of flying, flitting about with odd jerks, like the motions of a butterfly.

They are the smallest of the genus *Hirundo*, except, perhaps, the Esculent Swallow.

THE PURPLE SWALLOW.

The plumage is of a beautiful violet colour, and the tail forked.

It inhabits Carolina and Virginia, appearing in May, and retiring on the approach of winter.

The common people are very fond of this species, and place boards and other conveniences for them to build upon, as some do for Sparrows in England. These little birds requite their kindness, by delivering them from flies and insects, and by alarming their poultry upon the approach of Hawks, and other birds of prey, which they attack with great spirit.

THE

THE SWIFT.

The plumage a dusky black, the throat white, the four toes all forwards.

This is a large species; it comes the latest, appearing about the latter end of April, and departs the earliest; and during its short summer residence with us, has only time to rear one brood.

Its manner of flying is more rapid, and more elevated than that of others of the Swallow tribe; and from the great length of its wings, and shortness of its legs, if it were once on the ground, it would have great difficulty in recovering its flight; when this happens, it waddles in an awkward, embarrassed manner to some elevation, a little hillock, or a stone, from which with great effort it contrives to rise. From this structure in the bird, the whole of its life is spent in the opposite extremes, of the most rapid motion, and the most absolute rest. Sometimes, indeed, it is seen to fix itself against the wall, or the trunk of the tree near its nest, and to clamber into it with the help of its beak and wings, and tail and claws, availing itself of every support in its power; but far more frequently it enters its nest on the wing, and with that rapidity that it seems in an instant to vanish

nish from the eye, as though it weré dissolved in air.

Their nests are generally made in holes of walls, which are larger within than at the entrance: they prefer elevated situations, as steeples, and lofty towers, though sometimes, for concealment, perhaps, and security, they build under the arches of bridges; sometimes too, in hollow trees. They have been known to usurp the nests of Sparrows, and when Sparrows have intruded into theirs, they have contrived means of compelling them to relinquish the unjust acquisition. Their nests in towns are composed of various materials, of straw, of grass, moss, hemp, thread, silk, rags, gauze, muslin, and the sweepings of the streets; some of these they take upon the wing as they are raised from the ground by the wind; some, perhaps, they procure from Sparrows nests, which they have been observed to plunder.

When the young are hatched, their parents feed them only two or three times a day, but then they bring them a plentiful provision, their swallow being filled with flies, beetles, butterflies, and insects of various kinds; they feed too upon spiders.

Both the young and the parent birds swarm with fleas.

In Savoy, the young are esteemed delicate food.

In the Island of Zante, children often take them by suspending a feather upon a hook, at the end of a long thread from the window of a tower, or some elevated building; the Swift seizing the feather to convey to his nest, is caught upon the hook.

Swifts are impatient of heat, and on that account pass the middle of the day in their nests.

Like others of their tribe, they are liable to be infested with insects.

We are indebted to Mr. White, for the following observations on the Swift.

That it eats, drinks, collects materials for its nest, and performs every office on the wing, except sleeping, and incubation; he thinks he has frequently seen them carefs one another in the air.

The Swift never seems so much to enjoy itself as in sultry weather, just previous to thunder. In warm, sunny mornings, in little parties, they wing their rapid flight round steeples and churches, squeaking in a clamorous manner: these are supposed to be the males serenading their females as they sit, since they seldom alter their cry until they approach the nest, and those within return a little note, expressive of complacency.

They collect insects in a pouch under their tongue, and some chace in higher regions of the air than others of their tribe; though they have been observed flitting rapidly very low for hours together, over pools and streams, in pursuit of the phryganæ, ephemeræ, and libellulæ (insects,) just emerged from their larva state.

They are on the wing all day long, in gentle rains, whence we may infer, that their feathers are capable of resisting much wet. In windy weather, or heavy showers, they confine themselves to their nests.

When they arrive in the spring, their plumage is of a glossy foot colour, except the chin, which is white; but before they leave us, by being so continually in the sun, it becomes weather-beaten, and faded. They return again glossy the next season; hence, it is probable, that they do not retire to sunny climates, and this seems supported, by their disappearing from the southern parts of Spain, before they become invisible with us. Do they withdraw to moult, and to rest from the fatigue of some months passed in unceasing activity?

They breed, as observed before, but once in a season, and produce only two young ones.

They are fearless whilst haunting their nesting places:

places: then they are not scared by a gun, and are often beaten down with poles, and sticks, as they attempt to enter their nests.

They have a strong grasp with their feet, which enables them to cling to walls, and their bodies being flat, they can enter a narrow crevice.

They are much infested with vermin; and young ones are sometimes found fallen on the ground under their nests, which the fleas perhaps may have rendered insupportable.

For several years eight pair were observed to frequent the Church at Selborne: as they every year bred eight pair more, what becomes of the increase?—the parents, perhaps, compel them to find some other spot.

On the 24th of August, Mr. White observed a solitary Swift, which he discovered attended upon two young ones in a nest, under the eaves of a building;

On the 27th they all disappeared. On the 31st he had the eaves uncovered, and found in a nest two dead Swifts, quite putrid, over these a second nest had been formed.

This proves that Swifts, when such a circumstance makes it necessary, can subsist here after the usual time of their migration; it likewise affords a presumption, that they raise but one brood in a year.

THE

THE WHITE BELLIED SWIFT.

The plumage is dusky; the throat and stomach white: the four toes placed forwards, and it has ten feathers in the tail.

It inhabits the mountainous parts of Spain, Switzerland, and Savoy, building in holes of rocks: It appears in Savoy the beginning of April, frequenting ponds and marshes at first, for 15 or 20 days; after which it retires to the mountainous parts to breed.

THE WHITE COLLARED SWALLOW

Makes its nest in houses at Cayenne.

The nest is large, composed of the down of dog's bane, well woven; the cavity is divided obliquely by a partition, and a small parcel of soft down is placed over the top, to keep the eggs and the young brood warm.

GENUS 80. CAPRIMULGUS.

The beak a little hooked, very small, depressed at the base; and beset with stiff bristles on the edges of the upper mandibles.

The gape is very wide.

The tongue is pointed, and entire at the end.

The tail consists of ten feathers, and is not forked.

The legs are short; the toes united by a membrane as far as the first joint; the claw of the middle toe in some species serrated.

The birds of this genus bear the same relation to Swallows, as Owls to the rapacious birds: their habits and manners are very similar, but like Owls, they take their food in an evening.

The Goatfucker feeds principally upon gnats, beetles, and moths. He begins his chase when the sun is near the horizon; and if he appear in the middle of the day, it is only when the weather is cloudy, his flight then is low, and not long continued, because his eyes are unpleasantly affected with the glare of light.

Like the Swallow tribe, he is not under the necessity of snapping his beak every time he gets an insect into his mouth, for it is furnished with a kind of glue, which entangles, and retains his prey.

Goatfuckers with us are migratory birds, arriving in England in May, and departing in August.

They do not give themselves the trouble of building a nest; a little hole upon the ground, in a stony place, at the foot of a tree, or of a rock, answers their purpose; there the female lays two eggs; she sits upon them very assiduously; and

B  L

ORDER 6. *Passeres.*
Genus so Caprimulgus.



GOAT SUCKER or WHIP POOR WILL

Published June 1787 by J. Johnson St Pauls Church Yard London.

and it is said, if she apprehend they are discovered, that she very dexterously contrives to push them into another hole, which, though as exposed as before, may appear to her more secure.

The birds of this genus have a remarkable habit of flying round a tree, in full leaf, perhaps a hundred times successively, in a rapid and irregular manner, sometimes darting instantly down, as it were to seize their prey; at other times rising as instantaneously, probably in chace of those insects which are fluttering there.

As the Goatsuckers wing their flight with great rapidity, and with their beaks open, they make a whirring noise, which has been compared to that of a spinning wheel, from which they have been called Wheel-birds.

They seldom perch, but when they do, it is lengthways on the branch.

THE EUROPEAN GOATSUCKER.

The plumage is very singular, and not easily described; the ground colour is almost black, but it is mottled like the Woodcock's.

The legs are short, and feathered below the Knee.

The nostrils are faintly tubular.

This is the only species that is found in Europe.

It inhabits equally Europe and America; flies in the evening, feeding on moths, and nocturnal insects, particularly the *Scarabeus Melolentha*, or Dor Beetle. It is migratory, stays only from the end of May to the end of August in the northern, and until the end of September in the southern parts of the island.

It has two notes, the one a sharp squeak, this it utters as it pursues its mate; the other resembles as mentioned before, the humming of a spinning wheel. It not only makes this noise as it flies, but often begins it in the evening, sitting on a bare bough, with its head lower than the tail, and quivering the lower mandible. The noise jars so much, as to occasion a sensible vibration on any little building, on which the bird may chance to alight.

Mr. White observed a Goatsucker playing round a large oak, which swarmed with *Scarabæi Solstitiales*, or Fern Chaffers; its quick evolutions, and powers of wing, exceeding, if possible, those of the Swallow genus. He saw it distinctly more than once put out its short leg whilst flying, and by bending its neck, deliver something into its mouth, probably some of the Chaffers which it might catch with its feet: this, Mr. White thinks, may justly account for the middle

middle toe being furnished with a serrated claw, to retain its prey.

THE VIRGINIA GOATSUCKER

Arrives in Virginia about the middle of April. A few minutes after the sun is set, they frequently approach houses, and settling on a rail, or post, utter a piercing and disagreeable cry, which has been thought to resemble the words, *Whip-poor-Will*, the first and last syllables pronounced the loudest. This noise they repeat with little intermission until the next morning, flying about from one place to another.

It is very disagreeable, and disturbing; and being sometimes repeated by four or five assembled together, and reverberated and multiplied by echoes from the mountains, it is difficult to sleep in their neighbourhood.

They are mostly on the mountains; they make no nest, but lay their eggs in an exposed situation, upon the bare ground.

THE GRAND GOATSUCKER;

Is the size of a small buzzard, and inhabits Cayenne. Like others of the same genus it is solitary, retiring into the hollow of a decayed tree in the day-time, and preferring one situated in the neighbourhood of water.

The BLACK-BIRD; an Elegy. By Mr. JAGO.

THE Sun had chac'd the mountain snow,
 And kindly loos'd the frozen soil;
 The melting streams began to flow,
 And ploughmen urg'd their annual toil.

'Twas then, amid the vocal throng,
 Whom nature wakes to mirth and love,
 A Black-bird rais'd his am'rous song,
 And thus it echo'd thro' the grove.

O fairest of the feather'd train!
 For whom I sing, for whom I burn,
 Attend with pity to my strain,
 And grant my love a kind return.

For see the wintry storms are flown,
 And gentle Zephyrs fan the air;
 Let us the genial influence own;
 Let us the vernal pastime share.

The Raven plumes his jetty wing,
 To please his croaking paramour;
 The Larks responsive ditties sing,
 And tell their passion as they soar.

But

But trust me, love, the Raven's wing
Is not to be compar'd with mine;
Nor can the Lark so sweetly sing,
As I, who strength with sweetness join;

O! let me all thy steps attend!
I'll point new treasures to thy sight;
Whether the grove thy wish befriend,
Or hedge-rows green, or meadows bright,

I'll shew my love the clearest rill,
Whose streams among the pebbles stray;
These will we sip, and sip our fill,
Or on the flow'ry margin play.

I'll lead her to the thickest brake,
Impervious to the school-boy's eye;
For her the plaister'd nest I'll make,
And on her downy pinions lie.

When, prompted by a mother's care,
Her warmth shall form th' imprison'd young;
The pleasing task I'll gladly share,
Or cheer her labours with my song.

To bring her food I'll range the fields,
And cull the best of every kind;
Whatever nature's bounty yields,
• And love's assiduous care can find.

And when my lovely mate would stray,
To taste the summer sweets at large,
I'll wait at home the live-long day,
And tend with care our little charge.

Then prove with me the sweets of love,
With me divide the cares of life;
No bush shall boast in all the grove
So fond a mate, so blest a wife.

He ceas'd his song. The melting dame
With soft indulgence heard the strain;
She felt, she own'd a mutual flame,
And hasted to relieve his pain.

He led her to the nuptial bower,
And nestled closely by her side;
The fondest bridegroom of that hour,
And she the most delighted bride.

Next morn he wak'd her with a song,
"Behold!" he said, "the new-born day!
The Lark his mattin peal has rung,
Arise, my love, and come away."

Together through the fields they stray'd,
And to the murm'ring riv'let's side,
Renew'd their vows, and hopp'd and play'd,
With honest joy and decent pride.

When

When oh ! with grief the muse relates
 The mournful sequel of my tale;
 Sent by an order from the fates,
 A gunner met them in the vale.

Alarm'd, the lover cry'd, my dear,
 Haste, haste away, from danger fly;
 Here, gunner, point thy thunder here;
 O spare my love, and let me die.

At him the gunner took his aim;
 His aim, alas ! was all too true:
 O ! had he chose some other game !
 Or shot, as he was wont to do !

Divided pair ! forgive the wrong,
 While I with tears your fate rehearse;
 I'll join the widow's plaintive song,
 And save the lover in my verse.

The GOLD-FINCHES ; an Elegy. By Mr. JAGO.

'T WAS gentle spring, when all the tuneful race,
 By nature taught, in nuptial leagues combine,
 A Gold-finch joy'd to meet the fond embrace,
 And heart and fortune with her mate to join.

Through nature's spacious walks at large they rang'd,
 No settled haunts, no fix'd abode their aim;
 As chance or fancy led, their path they chang'd,
 Themselves in every vary'd scene, the same.

All in a garden, on a currant-bush,
With wond'rous art they built their waving seat;
In the next orchard liv'd a friendly Thrush.
Not distant far a Woodlark's soft retreat.

Here blest with ease, and in each other blest,
With early songs they wak'd the sprightly groves,
'Till time matur'd their blifs, and crown'd their nest
With infant pledges of their faithful loves.

And now what transport glow'd in either's eye!
What equal fondness dealt the allotted food!
What joy each other's likeness to descry,
And future sonnets in the chirping brood!

But ah! what earthly happiness can last?
How does the fairest purpose often fail?
A truant school-boy's wantonness could blast
Their rising hopes, and leave them both to wail.

The most ungentle of his tribe was he;
No generous precept ever touch'd his heart:
With concords false and hideous prosody,
He scrawl'd his task, and blunder'd o'er his part.

On barb'rous plunder bent, with savage eye,
He mark'd where wrapt in down the younglings lay,
Then rushing, seiz'd the wretched family,
And bore them in his impious hands away.

But:

But how shall I relate in numbers rude,
The pangs for poor Chrysomitris decreed !
When from a neighb'ring spray aghast she view'd
The savage ruffian's inauspicious deed !

So, wrapt in grief, some heart-struck matron stands,
While horrid flame surround her children's room !
On heav'n she calls, and wrings her trembling hands,
Constrain'd to see, but not prevent their doom.

O grief of griefs ! with shrieking voice, she cry'd,
What sight is this that I have liv'd to see ?
O ! that I had a maiden Gold-finch died,
From love's false joys, and bitter sorrows free !

Was it for this, alas ! with weary bill,
Was it for this, I pois'd th' unwieldy straw ?
For this I pick'd the moss from yonder hill ?
Nor shunn'd the pond'rous chaff along to draw ?

Was it for this, I cull'd the wool with care ;
And strove with all my skill our work to crown ?
For this, with pain I bent the stubborn hair,
And lin'd our cradle with the thistle's down ?

Was it for this my freedom I resign'd ;
And ceas'd to rove from beauteous plain to plain ?
For this I sat at home whole days confin'd,
And bore the scorching heat, and pealing rain ?

Was

Was it for this my watchful eyes grew dim?
 The crimson roses on my cheek turn pale?
 Pale is my golden plumage, once so trim;
 And all my wonted spirits 'gin to fail.

O plund'rer vile; O more than Weazel fell!
 More treach'rous than the Cat with prudish face;
 More fierce than Kites with whom the furies dwell,
 More pilf'ring than the Cuckow's prowling race.

For thee may plum or goosb'ry never grow,
 Nor juicy currant cool thy clammy throat;
 But bloody birch-twigs work thee shameful woe,
 Nor ever Gold-finch cheer thee with her note!

Thus sang the mournful bird her piteous tale,
 The piteous tale her mournful mate return'd;
 Then side by side they sought the distant vale,
 And there in silent sadness inly mourn'd.



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